SANAMI MATOH

KANZASHI -
KANZASHI0101@YAHOO.COM

-FAKE-
3
SANAMI MATOH

Manga
Drama
USA $9.99

-FAKE-™

Ryo and Dee are two New York City cops with an attraction for action—and each other! Working the beat of the 27th Precinct, they are on the hunt for an easily roused serial killer who doesn't mix business with pleasure—he murders women who look like prostitutes, and the tally of victims is mounting. Add to the mix Police Commissioner Berkeley, who has also set his sights on Rya; Diana Spacey, a sexy female FBI agent willing to put her life on the line; and a drug lord who is one step ahead of the police…and you've got the makings for a hot-blooded climax.

Just when the case looks to be too tough to crack, Diana suddenly becomes the object of the killer's desire. Can the gang untangle the serial killer's web before she becomes the next victim?

-FAKE-

VOLUME THREE

BY SANAMI MATOH

-FAKE-

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACT EIGHT.....7
ACT NINE.....119
ACT TEN.....151
AFTER TALK.....183

FAKE

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THE STORY SO FAR...

Ryo and Dee are two New York City cops with an attraction for action—and each other! Working the beat of the 27th Precinct, the debonair detectives solve gruesome murders and bust dangerous drug lords. But during downtime, their biggest challenge is trying to find out if they are more than partners—Dee can't help making moves on Ryo, who finds it more and more difficult to avoid Dee's mounting advances. After joining forces with a street punk named Bikky and a young pickpocket named Carol, Ryo and Dee find their bond growing stronger each day...but in the city that never sleeps, will their love for each other continue to be restless?

Translator - Nan Rymer
English Adaption - Stuart Hazleton
Editor - Julie Taylor
Contributing Editor - Jodi Bryson
Retouch and Lettering - Rob Steen
Cover Artist - Raymond Makowski

Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
Production Coordinator - Antonio DePietro
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller, Mutsumi Miyazaki
Art Director - Matt Alford
Editorial Director - Jeremy Ross
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
President & C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher & C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

Email: editor@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd Suite 2000
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FAKE
Tap.
SO, THIS IS THE INFAMOUS 27TH PRECINCT, HUH?
Looks kinda skanky if you ask me...
Pop.

FAKE

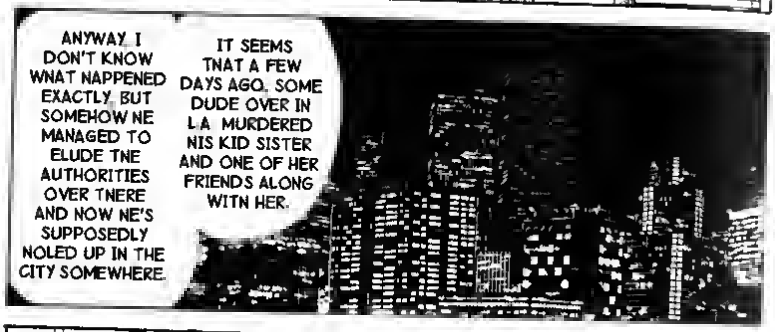
FAKE
フェイク

ACT.8

HELLO, RIZ.
HI, RANDY.
OH COME ON NOW, YOU THERE, CARRYING YOUR JACKET IN YOUR HAND?
HEY, YOU! YEAH, UP THERE, WITH THE CHESTNUT-BROWN HAIR?
Chestnut-brown hair
Jacket in hand
ARE YOU TALKING TO ME, MA'AM?

URM...
YEAH, I'M TALKING TO YOU. WHERE'S THE BATHROOM, DUDE?
PHEW.
OOHHH, MY BAD. SORRY ABOUT THAT. I KNOW I SOUND A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS BUT I GUARANTEE I'M HERE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
Sorry I didn't mean to act like you're suspicious. It's just a person can never be too careful.
Let's see
I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, MA'AM, BUT, UMN... WHO ARE YOU?
THANKS, SWEETIE YOU'RE A REAL LIFESAVER BY THE WAY, SINCE I'VE GOT YOU HERE, DO YOU MIND DIRECTING ME TO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE?
HUH? ERRR...

OH YEAH, I FORGET YOU CAME IN SECOND SHIFT. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT.


ANYWAY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY, BUT SOMEHOW HE MANAGED TO ELUDE THE AUTHORITIES OVER THERE AND NOW HE'S SUPPOSEDLY HOLED UP IN THE CITY SOMEWHERE.
IT SEEMS THAT A FEW DAYS AGO, SOME DUDE OVER IN L.A. MURDERED HIS KID SISTER AND ONE OF HER FRIENDS ALONG WITH HER.

OH, AND FROM WHAT I HEAR, THE BROTHER'S A REAL NUT CASE TOO.

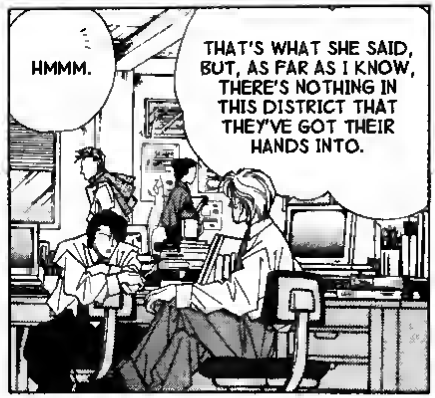
S'GOTTA BE.
SO YOU THINK SHE'S HERE BECAUSE OF THAT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE NAME'S DIANA SPACEY, FBI.
THE CHIEF SHOULD BE EXPECTING ME.

THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION?!

THIS MORNING? WHICH WAS...?
MAYBE IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT THE CAPTAIN WAS TALKING ABOUT THIS MORNING


HMMM.
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID, BUT, AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS DISTRICT THAT THEY'VE GOT THEIR HANDS INTO.

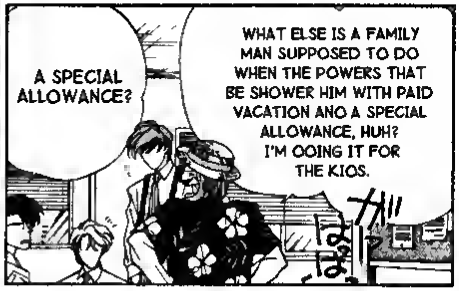
YUP, THAT'S DEFINITELY KINDA CREEPY.
THEN, MOVING RIGHT ALONG FROM CREEPY TO CREEPIER THE PSYCHO CUT OFF THEIR LIPS.
WHEN THEY FOUND THE BODIES OF THE TWO GIRLS, NOT ONLY WERE THEY PRETTY SLICED UP, BUT THEIR FINGERNAILS WERE RIPPED OFF TOO.
I DON'T THINK SO.
Eww, get away
WELL, IF YOU'RE FEELING SCARED, BUDDY, I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO COMFORT YOU WITH SOME SERIOUS DEE-E AND AFFECTION... WHAT DO YOU SAY?
DEE...
DOH.

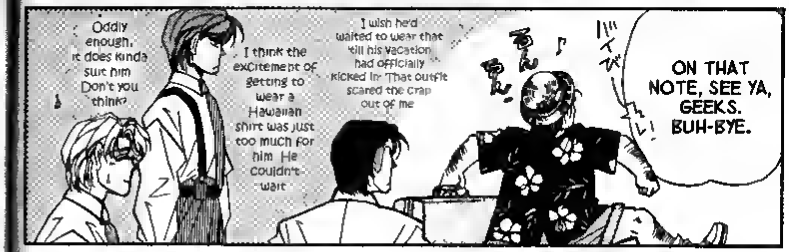
OH YEAH, I FORGET I WAS HERE FOR A REASON.
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING, JJ?
Grrr... That good for nothing piece of-
Sheesh, Dee!
WELL, I DON'T WANT IT!! JEEZ!!
WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM?! HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF WAVING, OR MAYBE EVEN JUST SAYING, "HI"? WHAT IF I BUMPED MY HEAD AND WENT CRAZY OR SOMETHING, HUH?!
Rawr.
THE CHIEF NEEDS TO SEE YOU TWO IN HIS OFFICE ASAP.
HERE'S THE DEAL.
But of course that's just hearsay
OWWW!!
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT BADGER WANT WITH US?
ACK!

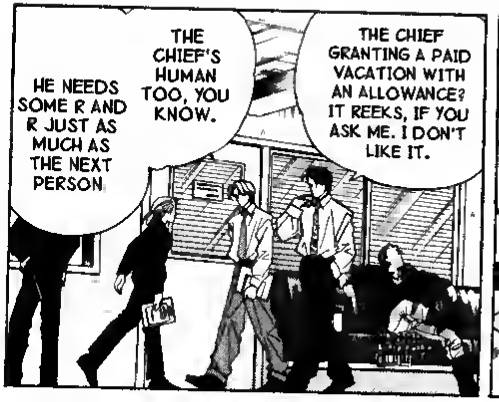
CHIEF!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU WEARING?
You gonna do a hula for me or something?

CONSIDER IT AMNESTY FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR BABY-SITTING IDIOTS LIKE YOU TWO AND TRYING MY BEST TO KEEP YOU IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING. GUESS THE COMMISH RECOGNIZED ALL MY HARD WORK. SNORT

I THINK I FIGURED THAT MUCH OUT, THANKS. LET ME TAKE A WILD GUESS WHERE. SOME PLACE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC?
Uh-huh.
CAN'T YOU TELL, IMBECILE? I'M GOING ON VACATION. AND CHILL OUT WITH THAT BAOGERING BS


A SPECIAL ALLOWANCE?
WHAT ELSE IS A FAMILY MAN SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN THE POWERS THAT BE SHOWER HIM WITH PAID VACATION AND A SPECIAL ALLOWANCE, HUH? I'M DOING IT FOR THE KIDS.


Oddly enough, it does kinda suit him. Don't you think?
I think the excitement of getting to wear a Hawaiian shirt was just too much for him. He couldn't wait
I wish he'd waited to wear that 'till his vacation had officially kicked in. That outfit scared the crap out of me
ON THAT NOTE, SEE YA, GEEKS. BUH-BYE.


HE NEEDS SOME R AND R JUST AS MUCH AS THE NEXT PERSON.
THE CHIEF'S HUMAN TOO, YOU KNOW.
THE CHIEF GRANTING A PAID VACATION WITH AN ALLOWANCE? IT REEKS, IF YOU ASK ME. I DON'T LIKE IT.

SOMETHING'S UP
HUH?

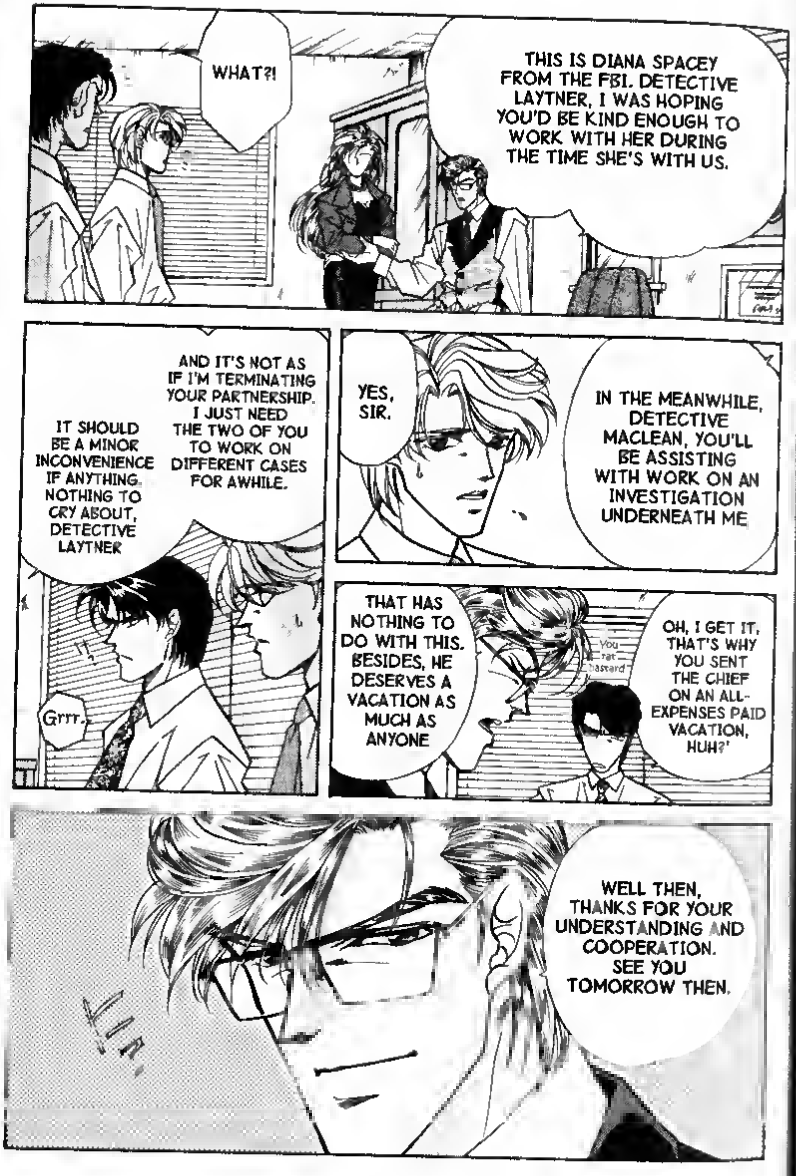
YOU MEAN COMMISSIONER ROSE? IF HE CATCHES YOU TALKING ABOUT HIM LIKE THAT, YOU'RE SCREWED, YOU KNOW.
BUT REALLY THINK ABOUT IT, DOLT. LIKE THAT SLY FOX WOULD GIVE ANYTHING UP FREELY?

COMMISSIONER
Hmmm
YUP, IT'S--

YUP. IN FACT, I'D SAY MAJORLY SCREWED, DETECTIVE LAYTNER.
Ergh!
That grating voice could only be

MIND JOINING ME IN MY OFFICE FOR A MOMENT?

I'LL BE TAKING OVER THE CHIEF'S RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE HE'S ON VACATION.
ANY AND ALL OF THEM.
LET'S JUST SAY THERE'S A CASE I'D LIKE TO CHECK IN ON PERSONALLY.
AND, IN ORDER TO DO IT, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP.
BUT WHY ARE YOU--
IT'S ALL RIGHT, DIANA. PLEASE, COME IN.
AM I INTERRUPTING?
TTP!


WHAT?!
THIS IS DIANA SPACEY FROM THE FBI. DETECTIVE LAYTNER, I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE KIND ENOUGH TO WORK WITH HER DURING THE TIME SHE'S WITH US.
AND IT'S NOT AS IF I'M TERMINATING YOUR PARTNERSHIP. I JUST NEED THE TWO OF YOU TO WORK ON DIFFERENT CASES FOR AWHILE.
IT SHOULD BE A MINOR INCONVENIENCE IF ANYTHING. NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT, DETECTIVE LAYTNER
Grrr..
YES, SIR.
IN THE MEANWHILE, DETECTIVE MACLEAN, YOU'LL BE ASSISTING WITH WORK ON AN INVESTIGATION UNDERNEATH ME
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS. BESIDES, HE DESERVES A VACATION AS MUCH AS ANYONE
You rat bastard
OH, I GET IT, THAT'S WHY YOU SENT THE CHIEF ON AN ALL-EXPENSES PAID VACATION, HUH?'
WELL THEN, THANKS FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION. SEE YOU TOMORROW THEN.

SO.
THAT'S THE INFAMOUS RYO, HUH? HE IS CUTE, ISN'T HE?
And nice too...
THAT HE IS. ON THE OUTSIDE, ANYWAY.
BUT ON THE INSIDE, WELL, HE'S QUITE THE TOUGH NUT TO CRACK. HE'S QUICK TOO, BOTH IN MIND AND ACTION.
WHICH IS WHY YOU STUCK ME WITH THE THORN IN YOUR SIDE, HUH? HOW GRACIOUS OF YOU TO THINK ONLY OF YOUR OWN COMFORT. EVER HEARD THAT MIXING BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE LEAVES QUITE A NASTY AFTER-TASTE?
WOULD IT SHOCK YOU TOO MUCH TO LEARN THERE ACTUALLY IS A CASE I'M INTERESTED IN?
BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT HIM, RIGHT?
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.
A SLAVE-TRADING AND PROSTITUTION RING I WAS PREVIOUSLY INVESTIGATING SEEMS TO HAVE REBUILT ITS BASE OF OPERATION WITHIN MY NEW-FOUND JURISDICTION.
AND IS IT SO WRONG OF ME TO WANT TO LEAD THE INVESTIGATION HERE AS WELL? BESIDES...

-THAT THORN IN MY SIDE ISN'T COMPLETELY USELESS. MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, THE TRUTH IS QUITE THE CONTRARY. I'M CONFIDENT HE'LL SERVE AS A STELLAR ASSISTANT TO YOU ON YOUR CASE, DEE DEE.
.....
UH, HUH. WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.
THIS IS THE VICTIM, ANISE FIELD. SHE'S 15 YEARS OLD. ATTENDED THE LOCAL JUNIOR HIGH.
AND THIS HERE, IS OUR FUGITIVE AND ANISE'S BLOOD BROTHER, ROD FIELD.
HE'S 22 YEARS OLD AND WORKS OVER AT A TRANSPORTATION COMPANY IN ITS WAREHOUSE AREA. HE ALSO MOONLIGHTED HERE AND THERE FOR ANISE'S TUITION.
THIS IS HER FRIEND AND CLASSMATE, EVA LANDON. ALSO 15 YEARS OLD.

I'M TALKING ABOUT HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WE KNOW FOR A FACT HE MADE IT FROM L.A. TO NYC. AND IF WE DON'T FIND HIM QUICK, THIS WILL JUST GET WORSE.

HE'S NORMALLY A QUIET YOUNG MAN.

BUT WHENEVER HE SEES A GIRL SEXED UP WITH BRIGHT RED LIPSTICK AND NAIL POLISH HE JUST SNAPS. GOES ABSOLUTELY BERSERK.

HE WAS A REGULAR AT THE LAPD FOR QUITE A FEW ASSAULT-AND-BATTERY CHARGES AGAINST THAT TYPE OF GIRL.

HE'S BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE HIS MOTHER RAN OUT ON THEM 5 YEARS AGO. SHE WAS A PROSTITUTE. NOT A VERY HIGH-CLASS ONE EITHER.

AND YES, THE CHANCES OF THAT ARE HIGH IF WE EVER DO COME FACE-TO-FACE.

Shut up

HEH, HEH. SO, HAVE YOU BEEN TARGETED BY HIM YET? BECAUSE YOU'RE TOTALLY HIS TYPE.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT WOULDN'T BE SUCH A BAD IDEA FOR YOU TO TAKE THE REST OF TODAY TO LOOK OVER THESE.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW, I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND IN THESE FILES.

LOOK HERE, TOUGH GUY, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF GATHERING MORE INTELLIGENCE, OKAY?! SO WE COULDN'T MOVE EVEN IF WE WANTED TO.

What did you say?

WOW, EVEN THE CHIEF MUST BE ON A BUSIER SCHEDULE THAN WE ARE.

WE MOVE OUT TOMORROW.

ALL RIGHT, WHATEVER. SO, I GUESS THAT MEANS I'M FREE TO GO DO MY OWN THING NOW, RIGHT? WELL THEN, SEE YA.

OH, REALLY? AND HERE I WAS THINKING YOU'D BE MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE CHIEF'S OFFICE.

Oh sure, the Chief's on vacation, Berk's using me now.

I THOUGHT I MIGHT GO STOP BY THE OLD SHOOTING RANGE. GET A BIT OF PRACTICE IN.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Grin
REMOVAL OF THE THORN IN HIS SIDE.
SURE. SO, WHAT'S YOUR ROLE IN HIS GRAND SCHEME, HUH?
AWWW, CAHOOTS IS SUCH A MEAN, UGLY WORD. WE'RE MORE LIKE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, IF ANYTHING. SWEAR TO GOD.
SO, YOU ARE IN CAHOOTS WITH BERKELEY AFTER ALL, AREN'T YOU? I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP.
HOWEVER.
That good for nothin' piece of IF I'm a thorn in his side, then he's a thorn in my— GRRRRRRRRR!!!!
Tee hee
I STILL EXPECT YOU TO DO YOUR WORK, DETECTIVE DEE LAYTNER.
AND IT BETTER BE YOUR BEST AT THAT. OR ELSE.

...SO DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH ME, TOOTS.
OH, BUT, JUST SO YOU KNOW. I DON'T EXACTLY HATE YOU, EITHER...
Heh
OH YEAH?
Cute Cute Cute
BESIDES, I THINK I RATHER LIKE YOU.
.....
SORRY, HONEY, MY EYES ARE SET ON RYO...
HMM, BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WHY WOULD I POSSIBLY LIKE YOU? HMMM. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY. I JUST DO.
HMMMMM
Hmmmm. But who?
WHAT IS THIS VIBE I KEEP GETTING FROM HIM? HE SO REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE I KNOW
GEE, THANKS. WAY TO GO WITH THE COMPLIMENTS.
BYE

THIS IS ED NIELSEH, THE SUPPOSED RIHGLEAOER OF THE CARTEL.
THEY MAIHLY OEAL WITH THE TRAFFICKING OF MIHORS, BUT THEY'VE MANAGED TO AOO ORUG AND GUN OISTRIBUTION IHTO THEIR REPERTOIRE TOO.
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'S EVER BEEN IN JAIL FOR ANYTHING MAJOR, HAS HE?
THERE'S NEVER ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO NAIL HIM.
SOMEHOW HE'S MANAGED TO SQUIRM HIS WAY OUT OF ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT WE TRY TO THROW AT HIM.
JUST A FEELING? NOTHING CONCLUSIVE?
FOR THE PAST MONTH NOW, SINCE HE'S BEEN IN OUR JURISDICTION, WE'VE HAD ABOUT 30 REPORTS OF MISSING PERSONS FILED OVER MINORS. I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING ED NIELSEN'S SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR A GOOD DEAL, IF NOT ALL, OF THESE REPORTS.
I HAVE PEOPLE WORKING, PUTTING TO-GETHER LEADS RIGHT NOW, SO WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE BY TOMORROW.
OH, AND RYO?
YES?
YES, SIR.
MEANWHILE, I RECOMMEND YOU READ THROUGH THAT FILE AND BETTER ACQUAINT YOURSELF WITH THIS INVES-TIGATION.
HMM?
URM.
UMMN, IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU NEED ME TO DO?

HUH? I, URRR..
OOPH!
Hmmm.
DEE, WHEW.

I KNOW THAT THE OFFICE MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST PLACE TO ASK YOU THIS, BUT WOULD YOU CARE TO HAVE DIH-HER WITH ME TOHIGHT?
I, UHM, I'M SORRY, BUT, ER, I PROMISED BIKKY I'D BE HOME TONIGHT SO--
AHH, YES, THAT MUST BE THE CHILD YOU TOOK IN?
YES, SIR.
AH, WELL, WE CAH'T DISAPPOINT THE CHILD, CAH WE? I SUPPOSE I SHOULD LET YOU OFF THE HOOK THIS TIME FOR HIS SAKE..
I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT THAT.
HOWEVER...
HEXT TIME, I WOH'T TAKE HO FOR AH--

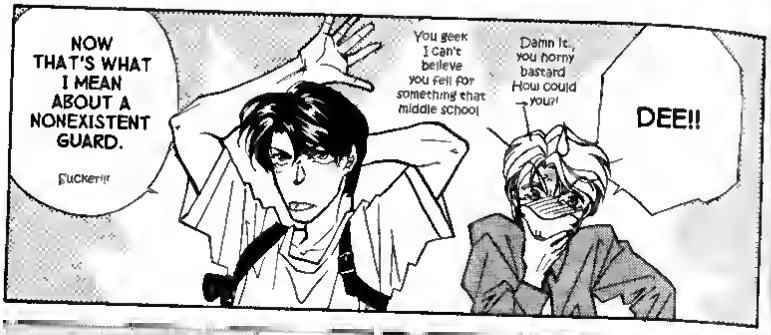
...
Stare
SURE. AS IF.
NEY, OEE, OIO YOU REALLY KNOCK BACK TNERE?
WALKING IN ON? WELL, IF YOU MUST KNOW, IT WAS JUST ME TURNING OOWN NIS INVITATION TO OINNER.
SO, CARE TO EXPLAIN WNAT I WAS WALKING IN ON?
I KNEW IT. JUST AS I SUSPECTED.

I WAS NOPING TO INVITE OETECTIVE MACLEAN TO JOIN ME AT TNE SNOOTING RANGE.
WHAT OO YOU WANT, LAYTNER?
WOW. SO SORRY TO INTERRUPT, GENTLEMEN, BUT I KNOCKED AND OION'T GET A RESPONSE SO I KINOA LET MYSELF IN.
Glare
TNAT IS, SO LONG AS YOU'RE OONE WITN NIM.
ON, TNANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Let's go, dude. NOW.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITN YOU TOMORROW, OETECTIVE MACLEAN.
OH YES, QUITE. HE'S ALL YOURS. FOR TODAY, ANYWAY.
And I was so close so very close
OAMN. THAT BOY'S SMARTER TNAN NE LOOKS.

WHAT?!
HMM? BUT THEN AGAIN..
WHY WOULDN'T HE?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD HE?
HOLY COW. THAT ACTUALLY MAKES SENSE. I WAS WONDERING WHY HE KEPT MOVING HIS FACE CLOSER AND CLOSER TO MINE.
That was so the couldn't kiss me!!
OKAY, SO MAYBE I AM A LITTLE CLUELESS HELL, I'LL EVEN AGREE ON THE AIRHEAD BIT, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GOT A FREAKIN' "KISS ME" SIGN TATTOOED ON MY FOREHEAD!
Grrr.
Jesus, dude Your guard is, like, totally non-existent!!
AND YOU'VE GOT TO BE THE BIGGEST AIRHEAD ON THE PLANET IF YOU JUST FIGURED OUT HE WAS TRYING TO KISS YOU.

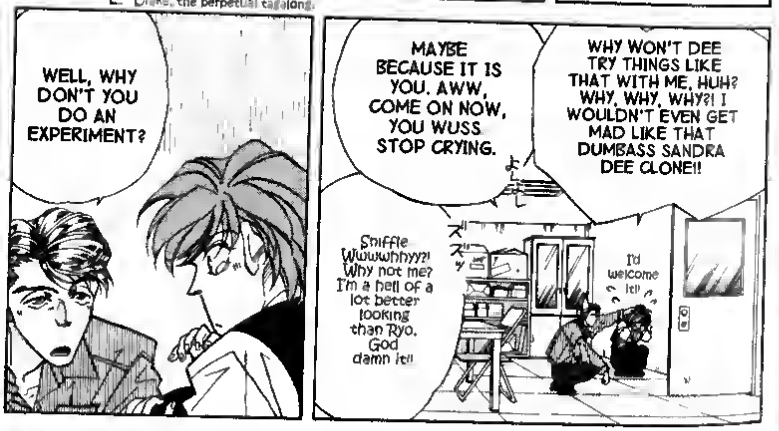
Don't get mad!

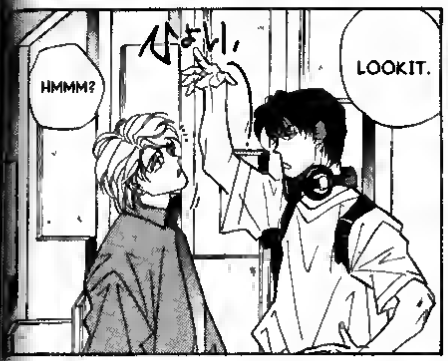
IT WAS EXACTLY LIKE THAT FIRST TIME I EVER MET HIM, BACK IN ENGLAND
BEING STARED AT WITH THOSE EYES OF HIS. THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THEM THAT SENDS CHILLS DOWN YOUR SPINE
AND IT'S AS IF I'VE KNOWN HIM EVEN BEFORE WE MET. OR MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT HE REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE I'VE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME.
Aim.
?!
IT LOOKED MORE LIKE YOU WERE ABOUT TO GET SMOOCHED, IF YOU ASK ME.

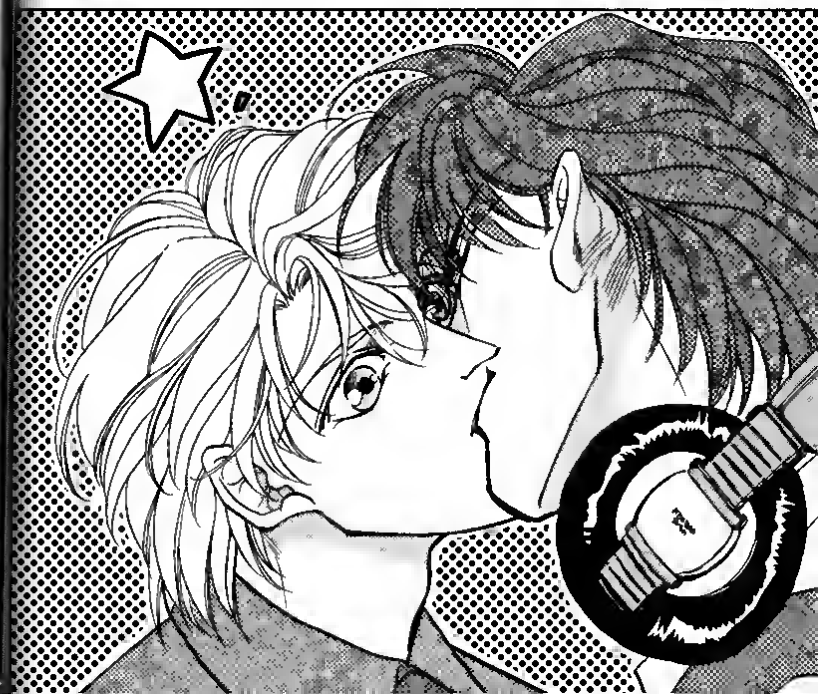

NOW THAT'S WHAT I MEAN ABOUT A NONEXISTENT GUARD.
Fucker!!
You geek I can't believe you fell for something that middle school
Damn it, you horny bastard How could you!!
DEE!!

Watching from the room next door.
Why does Ryo get all the juicy bits, huh? What about me!! What about my needs!!
DAMN HIM TO HELL!!
Is it really something to cry over?
URRGGGHH. DAMN HIM!!
No one was watching us. Trust me, okay?
What if someone was watching, huh? We're in the office, for crying out loud!!

Drake, the perpetual tagalong.

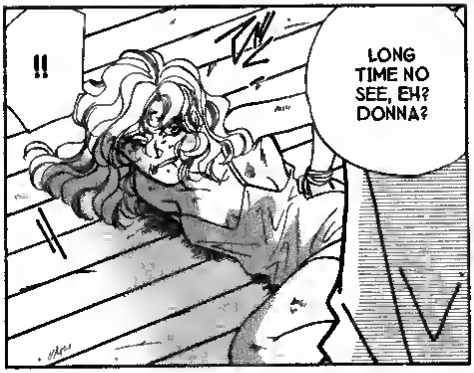

WELL, WHY DON'T YOU DO AN EXPERIMENT?
MAYBE BECAUSE IT IS YOU. AWW, COME ON NOW, YOU WUSS. STOP CRYING.
WHY WON'T DEE TRY THINGS LIKE THAT WITH ME, HUH? WHY, WHY, WHY?! I WOULDN'T EVEN GET MAD LIKE THAT DUMBASS SANDRA DEE CLONE!!
Sniffle. Wuuuuhhyyy?! Why not me? I'm a hell of a lot better looking than Ryo. God damn it!!
I'd welcome it!!

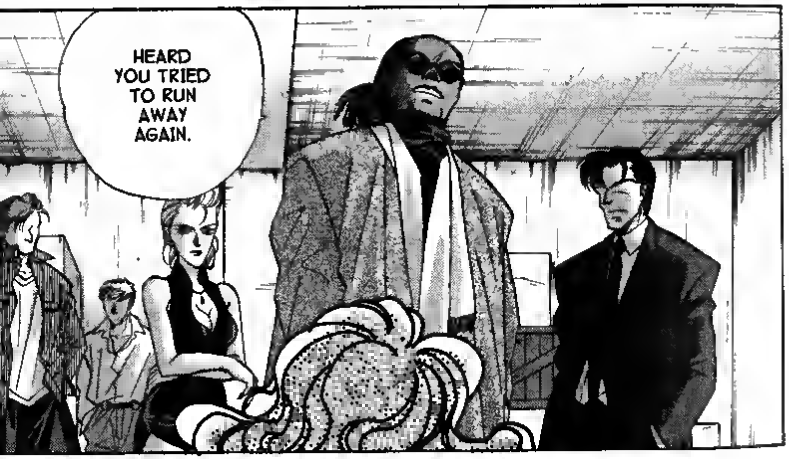


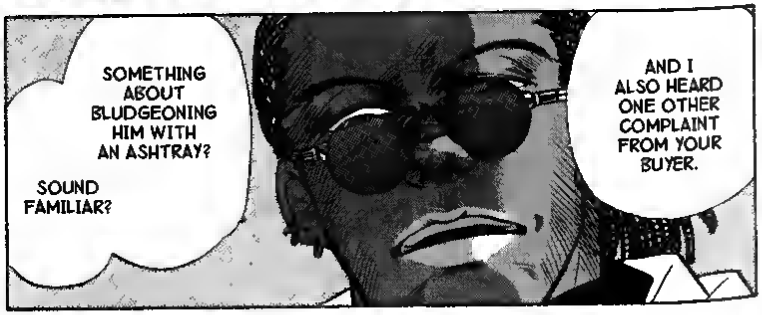


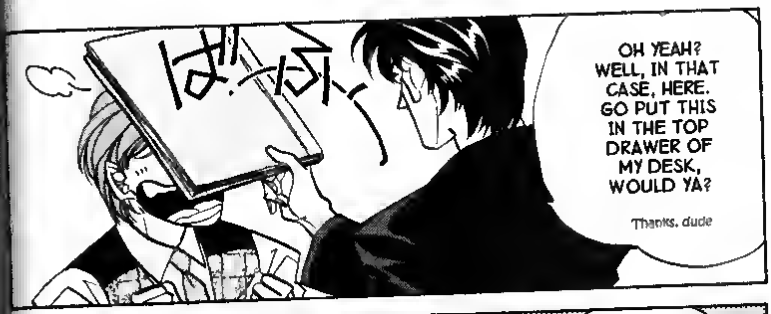
EHHH?
DEE!!
DID YOU WANT SOMETHING, JJ?
THE COAST IS CLEAR SO-
LIKE THIS?
HMMN, HOW ABOUT NO. AND DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS, IDIOT.
HEY, BUD, COULD YOU RAISE YOUR HAND UP FOR ME?
ARRRRRGGGHHHHHH!! ALL RIGHT ALREADY!! I'LL DO IT!! JUST LET ME THE HELL GO!!
WHY NOT?! WHY WON'T YOU PUT YOUR HAND UP?! MEANIE, MEANIE, MEANIE!!

ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO NOW? PREFERABLY TO ME?
DO? WITH YOU? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
It's disturbing
WELL? AND WHAT EXACTLY IS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN NOW? AND WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE?
Stare
OH YEAH, THAT REMINDS ME. JJ?
WAAA-HHHNNN YOU DIDN'T BITE AFTER ALL
Sniff
YES, SIR!! I'M AT YOUR BECK AND CALL. ANYWHERE YOU WANT IT AND ANYHOW, I'M READY AND RARIN' TA GO, MY MAN!!
THANK YOU GOD"

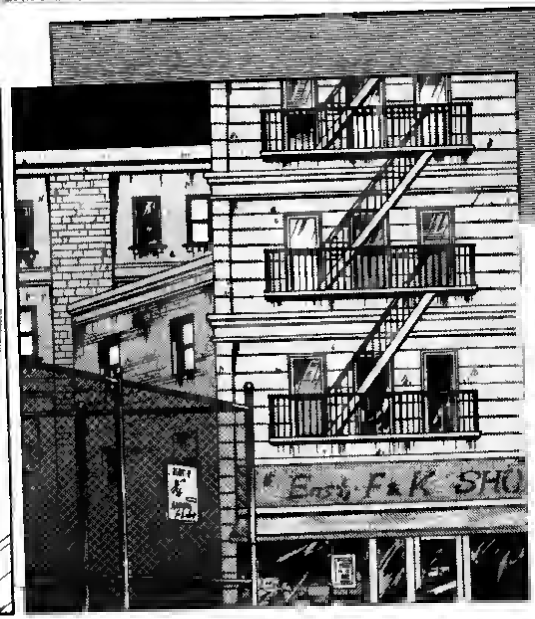








...but he still kept his word



OTHERWISE, I'LL KEEP RUNNING AND HITTING CUSTOMERS AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES BEFORE YOU LET ME GO!!
YOU KNOW WHAT? I HATE SCREWING YOUR STUPID CLIENTS AND I HATE BEING SMACKED AROUND ALL THE TIME. SO DO ME A FAVOR AND LET ME GO HOME ALREADY!!
HMMM...
ED, THIS IS THE FIFTH TIME SHE'S PULLED A STUNT LIKE THIS. IF WE KEEP LETTING HER OFF LIKE THIS, THINGS COULD GET BAD
Whisper
MIND GIVING DONNA HERE ONE LAST MAKE OVER BEFORE SHE HEADS OUT? MAKE IT REAL FANCY TOO.
YEAH, SURE. JUST ONE THING BEFORE YOU GO. MILLIE?
R-REALLY?!
VERY WELL THEN. MAYBE YOU'RE ON TO SOMETHING THERE, DONNA. MAYBE IT IS ABOUT TIME YOU GOT TO GO HOME.
NO...!!
COME ON!! PLEASE!! I'M BEGGIN' YOU!! LET ME OUT OF HERE!!
OPEN UP!!

HELLO, ANISE.

AHH, AND YOUR NAILS TOO? ALL PAINTED. YOU LOOK LIKE A SCUZZY WHORE, ANISE.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO YOUR LIPS? THEY'RE BRIGHT RED.
IN FACT, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE THAT BITCH.

IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU.
NOT ONE BIT, ANISE.

NO!!!

NICE HOBBY YOU GOT THERE. NOT MY STYLE THOUGH.
ANY REASON?
I'M HERE TO DISCUSS POSTPONING ONE OF OUR UPCOMING TRANSACTIONS.
SORRY TO HEAR THAT. NOW WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
YEAH. THE FBI'S DECIDED TO MOVE IN ON YOUR MURDER MACHINE OVER THERE.
HMM. AS YOU WISH. THOUGH I DOUBT ANYTHING WILL COME TO PASS THE WAY THOSE DOGS SNIFF.
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO GETTING BACK ON TRACK ONCE THINGS COOL DOWN THEN, HMM?
AND FRANKLY, I'D PREFER NOT TO BE AROUND WHEN THEY COME FOR HIM.

IT'S TRIPPY TO SEE HOW MANY SHADES OF RED A PERSON'S BLOOD CAN RUN. DON'T YOU THINK SO, LEO?

A THIRD ACCIDENT HAS OCCURRED!!

FAKE

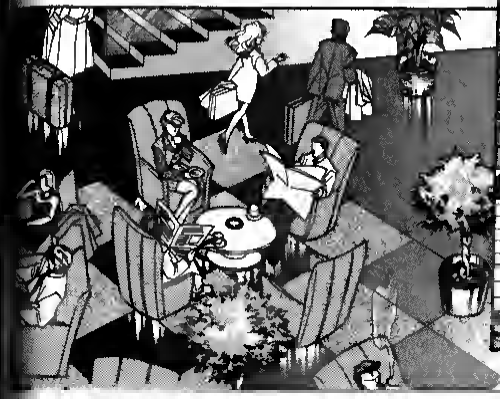
AFTER WHICH ROD PROMPTLY DISAPPEARED,
RIGHT?

HOLD ON.
I THINK HE GOT OFFED OR SOMETHING ELSE?
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED.

LOOKS LIKE THE BIG BAD WOLF HIMSELF.

SOMEONE'S COMING.

THIS SHOULDN'T BE TOO BAD IF THEY'RE JUST SITTING DOWN FOR A DRINK
Here's to something even we can afford!
sip.
DAMN!! CHECK OUT THE EXPENSIVE THREADS ON THOSE THUGS DEFINITELY HIGH-CLASS, HUH? MEETING UP AT A WICKEDLY EXPENSIVE HOTEL LIKE THIS JUST FOR A MEETING

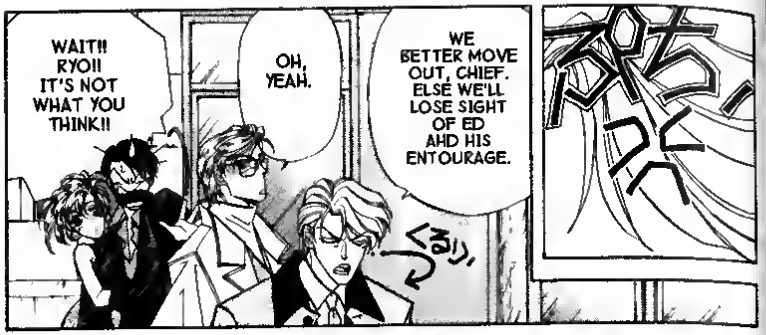


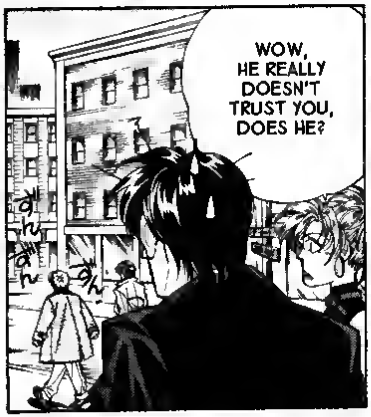
PPA HOTEL. 2:00 PM.

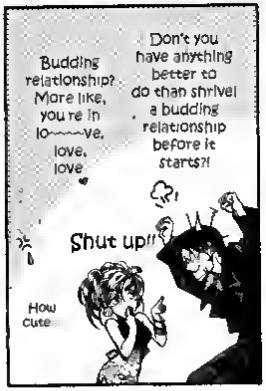
UH-HUH.
THAT HIM?

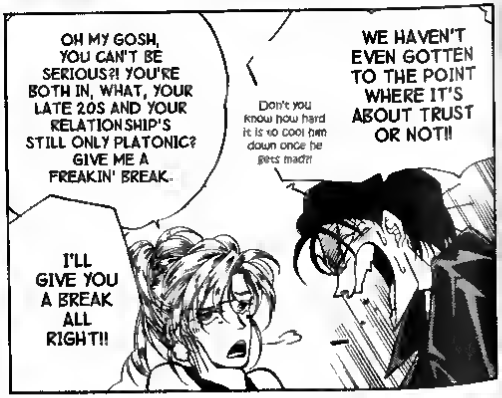
HE HAD SOME SORT OF CONTACT WITH ROD ABOUT A WEEK AGO
HE'S A DRUG SMUGGLER BUT I GOT A HOT TIP

CHECK OUT THAT GUY WHO ARRIVED LAST.
BET IF YOU GAVE HIM A COUPLE OF GUT PUNCHES YOU'D GET PLENTY OF DIRT. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
I HEAR YA. HE JUST LOOKS BAD.
HEY, THEY'RE ON THE MOVE.
JEEZ, ALREADY?
THE MEETING MUST NOT HAVE BEEN THAT IMPORTANT.
HEH. MORE LIKE THE ENTIRE TREE. AND YET, THEY'VE ALWAYS GOT SOME HOT CHICK GLUED TO THEIR SIDE.
HMM?
The world just ain't fair
EVER NOTICE THAT ALL THE BIG BOSSES LOOK LIKE THEY GOT HIT TEN TIMES WITH AN UGLY STICK?
OH!!
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?
WORK. MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF IT.
At a hotel?
DEE!!
What the hell is that supposed to mean?
PLAN ON GETTING A ROOM OR SOMETHING?
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT YOU DID JUST WALK OUT OF SAID HOTEL TOGETHER.
And what about you two, hmm?
WITH JUST A BIT OF PLEASURE THROWN IN TOO.
WHATEVER WE'RE HERE ON OFFICIAL FBI BUSINESS






Budding relationship? More like, you're in lo——ve, love, love
Don't you have anything better to do than shrivel a budding relationship before it starts?!
Shut up!!
How cute


OH MY GOSH, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS?! YOU'RE BOTH IN, WHAT, YOUR LATE 20S AND YOUR RELATIONSHIP'S STILL ONLY PLATONIC? GIVE ME A FREAKIN' BREAK.
Don't you know how hard it is to cool him down once he gets mad?!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE IT'S ABOUT TRUST OR NOT!!
I'LL GIVE YOU A BREAK ALL RIGHT!!

SHUT UP! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE BULLSHIT!!
WELL, WELL, WELL. THEY OO SAY THE MORE YOU FIGHT, THE MORE YOU GET ALONG, WHICH MUST MEAN...
Wa. ha. ha
YOU!! YOU SET THIS UP!! TO MAKE ME LOOK LIKE THE BAD GUY?! AND YOU, LET GO ALREADY!!
Oh yeah!!

COME ON, YOU REMEMBER? I TOLD YOU I LIKED YOU. YOU'RE SO MUCH FUN TO BE WITH TOO. PERSONALLY, I WOULDN'T MIND BEING YOUR REAL-LIFE PARTNER AT ALL KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DIANA?! YOU'RE CRAZY!!
Twitch

What happened to the invest gat on?

PERSONALLY, I WOULDN'T MIND BEING YOUR REAL-LIFE PARTNER AT ALL.
WORRIED?
OF COURSE NOT. WHY WOULD I BE?
I'M TALKING ABOUT WORRYING OVER "HIM," OF COURSE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SIR?

HUH?
IN FACT, I RATHER LIKE IT.
YOU LIKE TO HIDE YOUR EMOTIONS, DON'T YOU?
IS THAT BAD?
OH NO, NOT AT ALL.
THANKS TO YOU, SIR.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE PICKED UP A FEW CHOICE TACTICS FROM YOUR PARTNER THERE.
Damn it...
Smack

URRGGHH
WAAA HHHHH HHH!!
You didn't have to punch me, did you?
OOPS
Who's got a lot to learn now?

WAAHHH!!
EH?!
BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN.

ピンポンピンポンピンポン
Hmmm
NOW LET ME IN THERE OR I'LL BUST THIS FREAKIN' DOOR DOWN!!
OH, NICE. REAL NICE, RYO!! YOU GOT A HELL OF A LOT OF NERVE!!
You hear me?!

...
Glare
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

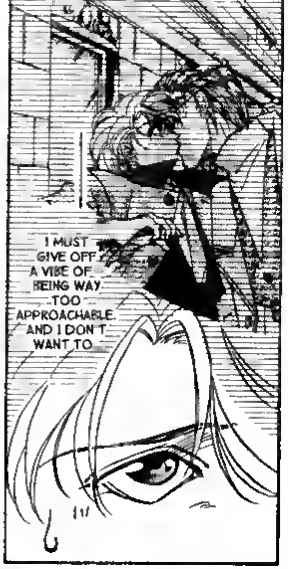
-----30 MINUTES LATER-----

YOU'RE SO UNFAIR.
I MEAN, COME ON NOW. WE ARE JUST PARTNERS AFTER ALL, SO WHAT COULD I HAVE POSSIBLY TAKEN THE WRONG WAY?
You're not even going to give me room to talk.

OH? AND WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN EXACTLY? JUST WHAT "THING" DID I TAKE THE WRONG WAY?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT DO I WANT?!" SHEESH, YOU TOTALLY TOOK THAT "THING" THE WORSE POSSIBLE WAY YOU COULD HAVE

ピーンポーン


I MUST GIVE OFF A VIBE OF BEING WAY TOO APPROACHABLE. AND I DON'T WANT TO

YES?

HEY, COME ON NOW!!

YO.

...
ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T GET BACK UNTIL EARLY EVENING.

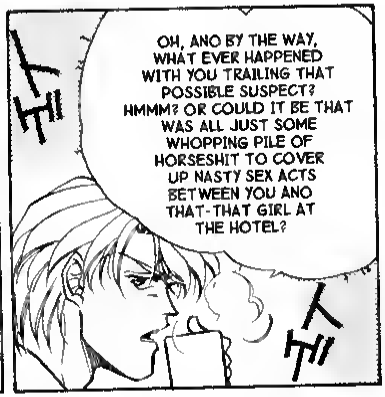
WHAT THE?!

SHUT UP. SOMETHING HAPPENED, OION'T IT?
DAMN IT, DEE, DO YOU THINK JUST MAYBE YOU COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR HABIT OF ALWAYS PUSHING ME DOWN?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Damn he's good

OH, I DON'T KNOW. FOR EXAMPLE...

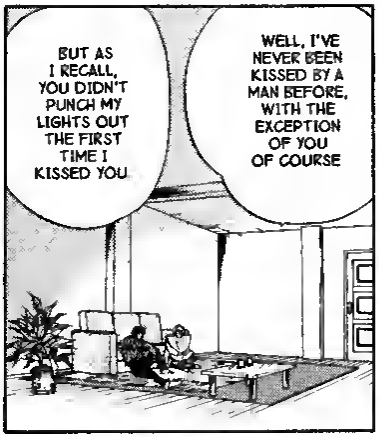
WELL, EXCU-U-U-USE ME FOR BEING LIKE THIS, BUT I GUESS THAT'S JUST HOW I AM, SO SORRY
Deal with it. Or leave
GO AHEAD, DUDE, TAKE MY FRIGGIN' HEAD OFF, WHY DON'T YOU??! IT'S NOT VERY BECOMING OF YOU
And holy shit, but you can be an awfully catty bitch!!
Hmmpm


OH, AND BY THE WAY, WHAT EVER HAPPENED WITH YOU TRAILING THAT POSSIBLE SUSPECT? HMMM? OR COULD IT BE THAT WAS ALL JUST SOME WHOPPING PILE OF HORSESHIT TO COVER UP NASTY SEX ACTS BETWEEN YOU AND THAT-THAT GIRL AT THE HOTEL?

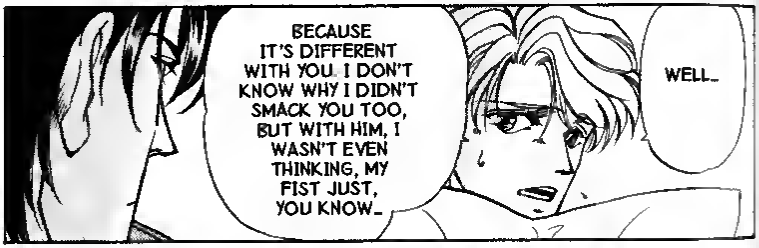
HUH?
AS FOR OUR SUSPECT, DIANA IS STAKING HIM OUT RIGHT NOW. WE'RE MEETING UP AGAIN TOMORROW. AND NOW THAT WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF WORK, WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO YOUR TRAIL?

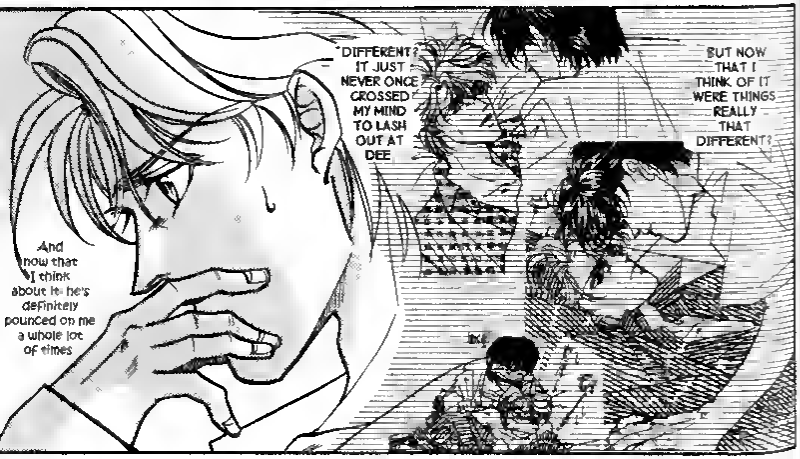
RYO?

WELL THEN, I GUESS WE'RE KINDA EVEN? SORTA? SO DID YOU END UP COMING HOME PRETTY MUCH AFTER I SAW YOU AT THE HOTEL THEN?
THE COMMISSIONER'S GOT HIM TAKEN CARE OF FOR NOW.


BUT AS I RECALL, YOU DIDN'T PUNCH MY LIGHTS OUT THE FIRST TIME I KISSED YOU.
WELL, I'VE NEVER BEEN KISSED BY A MAN BEFORE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF YOU OF COURSE

GYA, HA, HA, HA.
THAT'S FRIGGIN' RICH!! I'M PROUD OF YOU, MAN. I MEAN SHEESH, I'VE KISSED YOU A BUNCH OF TIMES AND YOU HAVEN'T PUNCHED ME YET!
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.
Though you sure might for some of the other stuff I've got planned.


WELL..
BECAUSE IT'S DIFFERENT WITH YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T SMACK YOU TOO, BUT WITH HIM, I WASN'T EVEN THINKING, MY FIST JUST, YOU KNOW..

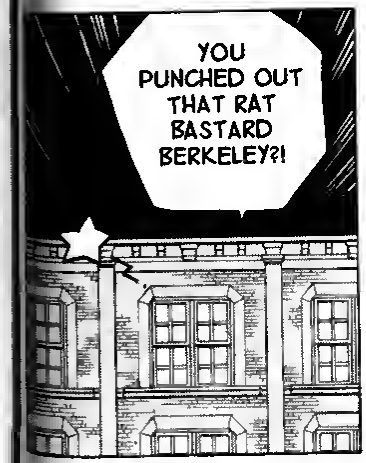

DIFFERENT? IT JUST NEVER ONCE CROSSED MY MIND TO LASH OUT AT DEE
BUT NOW THAT I THINK OF IT WERE THINGS REALLY THAT DIFFERENT?
And now that I think about it- he's definitely pounced on me a whole lot of times

SPLAT

Hauumph

WHAT THE HELL?! HOW DID YOU?!
...GETTING KISSED MAYBE? SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

I ALREADY DID IT, SO DON'T WORRY, OKAY?!
WHERE ELSE?! I'M GONNA GO BEAT THE LIVING SHIT OUT OF BERKELEY!!
Trust me, his own parents won't recognize him when I'm done.
WAIT!! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, HUH? DEE?!
THAT'S IT, HE'S DEAD MEAT!! GOD DAMN IT!!


YOU PUNCHED OUT THAT RAT BASTARD BERKELEY?!

...
EH?!

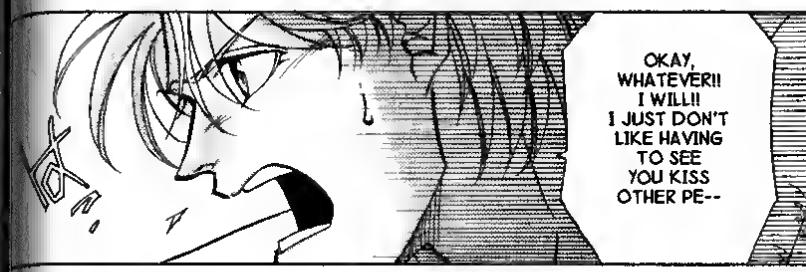
H-HOW DARE YOU TELL ME THAT MY GUARD'S NONEXISTENT WHEN NOT ONLY DO YOU GET KISSED BY DIANA, BUT JJ AS WELL? JJ, DEE!! JJ!!
ANYWAY, HOW IN HELL DID YOU MANAGE TO GET KISSED EVEN AFTER ALL THOSE WARNINGS I GAVE YOU, HUH?! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU??! I KNOW I SAID YOUR GUARD WAS NONEXISTENT, BUT I WAS JUST BEING MEAN ABOUT IT--DIDN'T THINK I'D BE SPEAKING A FRIGGING PROPHECY
RIGHT, SURE. BUT I GUESS YOU'RE NOT SO HIGH AND MIGHTY WHEN IT HAPPENS TO YOU TOO, ARE YOU? MR NO GUARD HMMMPM!!
You bastard!
I CAN'T BE ON MY TOES ALL THE TIME, CAN I?! A MAN'S GOTTA REST SOMETIMES!!
WELL THEN, FINE!! SPEAK UP THEN, WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM, HUH?!
YOU KNOW SOMETHING?! YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT YELLING AT ME WHEN SOMETHING OFFENDS YOU BUT--
Nnnghh
WHAT?!
I JUST DON'T LIKE OTHER PEOPLE SMOOCHING ON YOU!!
That's all I care about!!

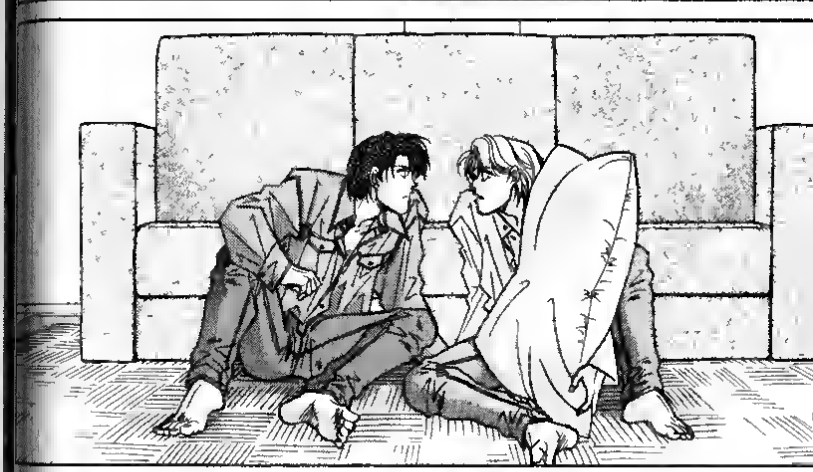
Grin
BUT YOU DON'T MIND BEING KISSED BY ME, RIGHT?
WAIT, SO,
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT YOU DIDN'T LIKE BEING KISSED BY HIM,
Err...
DOES NOT!!
DOES TOO.
NO IT DOESN'T.
YES IT DOES.
YOU'RE READING WAY TOO MUCH IN TO THINGS, DUDE. JUST BECAUSE I DIDN'T HIT YOU DOESN'T MEAN I LIKE KISSING YOU AT ALL.

A MURDER?!
HELLO?
Click
I'm here now
HEY, DRAKE? UH HUH. YEAH, HE'S HERE UH HUH..

DIANA!!

I'M PRETTY SURE I'LL GET TO HEAR THE REST OF IT LATER ON, SO...
Doh.
Glance—
SURE DID BUT--
WHY, HELLO THERE, YOU TWO. SHOWING UP TOGETHER ALL COZY. HOW SENTIMENTAL. DID I MANAGE TO INTERRUPT YOUR EVENING OR SOMETHING?


OKAY, WHATEVER!! I WILL!! I JUST DON'T LIKE HAVING TO SEE YOU KISS OTHER PE--



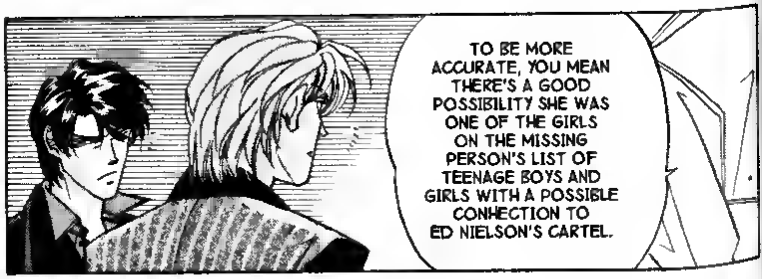
TELL
TELL

HMM. YEAH.
SOMETHING THE MATTER, RYO?

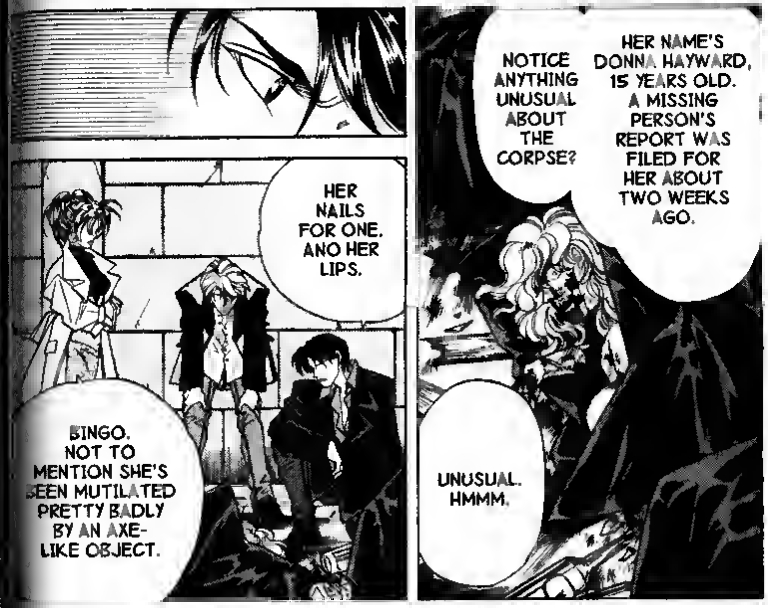
THIS GIRL IS--

DONNA HAYWARD.
DIANA. WHAT WAS THE VIC'S NAME AGAIN?

THAT'S HER ALL RIGHT.
THIS IS ONE OF THE GIRLS WHO WAS KIDHAPPED BY THE PROSTITUTION SLASH SLAVE-TRADING RING THE COMMISSIONER AND I HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATIHG.


TO BE MORE ACCURATE, YOU MEAN THERE'S A GOOD POSSIBILITY SHE WAS ONE OF THE GIRLS ON THE MISSING PERSON'S LIST OF TEENAGE BOYS AND GIRLS WITH A POSSIBLE CONHECTION TO ED NIELSON'S CARTEL.

WHY OON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE VIC BEFORE I FILL YOU IN.
SO, I HEAR THIS ONE'S RELATEO TO THE FIELD CASE?


HER NAILS FOR ONE. ANO HER LIPS.
BINGO. NOT TO MENTION SHE'S BEEN MUTILATED PRETTY BADLY BY AN AXE-LIKE OBJECT.
NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THE CORPSE?
HER NAME'S DONNA HAYWARD, 15 YEARS OLD. A MISSING PERSON'S REPORT WAS FILED FOR HER ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO.
UNUSUAL. HMMM.

ROD, EH.
SAME EXACT M.O. AS ROO. SO I'O SAY CHANCES ARE HIGHER THAN A CRACK AOOICT THAT HE WAS THE ONE THAT KILLED HER TOO.

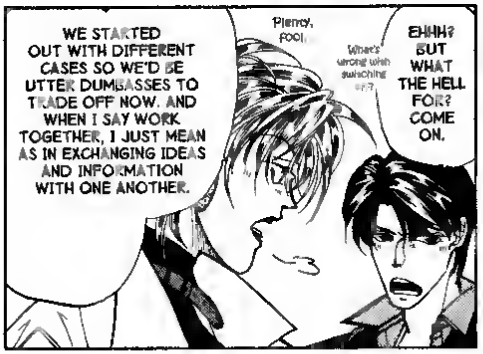
COMMISSIONER.
WELL, WELL, ANOTHER LATE BUT SUPERBLY TIMED ENTRANCE, EH?
Must be good to be the boss
TAKE OUT, REMEMBER? I CAME AS SOON AS SOMEONE WAS ABLE TO RELIEVE ME.
OKAY, DEE DEE. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?
NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT THE TECHS ARE POSITIVE THIS GIRL WAS KILLED SOMEWHERE ELSE AND THIS SCENE WAS JUST A DUMPING GROUND FOR HER BODY.
WHICH LEADS E TO ELIEVE HAT...
SOMEHOW IT'S DOUBTFUL THAT THEY'D LET ONE OF THEIR MAIN MONEY-MAKERS JUST FLIT AROUND WITHOUT A GUARD OR WATCHER
IT STRIKES ME AS ODD THAT ONE OF THE CARTEL'S CAREFULLY KIDNAPPED GIRLS WOULD JUST BE FOUND OFFED BY A RANDOM PSYCHO LIKE THAT.

...ROD IS WORKING FOR OR WITHIN THE CARTEL!

AT ANY RATE...
I WONDER HOW HE MANAGED TO JOIN UP WITH THEM.
IT'S A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY.

ACTUALLY, DETECTIVE LAYTNER, WE'LL KEEP THIS CONFIGURATION UNTIL WE CLOSE THIS CASE.
Not fair.
OOOH, OOH, THEN I WANNA BE WITH RYO AGAIN.

...IT LOOKS LIKE THE FOUR OF US'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER FROM NOW ON.


WE STARTED OUT WITH DIFFERENT CASES SO WE'D BE UTTER DUMBASSES TO TRADE OFF NOW. AND WHEN I SAY WORK TOGETHER, I JUST MEAN AS IN EXCHANGING IDEAS AND INFORMATION WITH ONE ANOTHER.
Plenty, fool.
What's wrong with switching off?
EHHH? BUT WHAT THE HELL FOR? COME ON.

HEY, DEE?
WHAT IS IT?
JUST CAN IT SO WE CAN MOVE OUT. WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND SOMEONE WHO WITNESSED THE DUMPING OF THE BODY.
What are you? A 5-year-old?
AWWW, MAH. NO FAIR. BOO!!
YES, SIR.
WHY DON'T WE SEE IF WE CAN COME UP WITH SOME LIKELY PLACES THAT ED MIGHT BE USING TO HIDE ROD AT.
He hasn't come home yet so I'm kind of worried
TELL HIM TO USE THE MAIN ROADS WHEN HE'S HEADED HOME, OKAY?
IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE BIKKY WHILE YOU'RE SNOOPING AROUND,
TROUBLE WITH A CAPITAL FRIGGIN' T.
HMM, YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE. YUP, THAT BRAT'S PROBABLY LOAFING ABOUT RIGHT NOW.
What kind of kid is he?
WELL, I TOLD HIM NOT TO WITH THE RASH OF KIDNAPPINGS TAKING PLACE LATELY, BUT YOU KNOW BIKKY. WHEN DOES THAT KID EVER LISTEN TO ME?
YOU MEAN THAT BRAT USES THE ALLEYS TO GET HOME? AROUND HERE? HE'S EITHER REALLY BRAVE OR REALLY STUPID.
It's like Crime Central over here

I'LL BE SURE TO TELL HIM TOO. CROSS MY HEART.
DEE AND I ARE GOING TO SPLIT UP ANYHOW, SO IF I SEE HIM,
Why am I still not comfortable describing him to you
Kya, ha, ha, ha
AWW, DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GONNA STEAL HIM AWAY FROM YOU AND EAT HIM UP OR SOMETHING
DIANA.
HE'S GOT BRIGHT BLOND HAIR AND HE'S ABOUT 10 YEARS OLD. HIS NAME'S BIKKY.
HIS DAD WAS BLACK AND HIS MOM WAS WHITE.
HEY.
BYE, BYE
THANKS, DIANA.
BIKKY? ALL RIGHTIE, GOTCHA. NO PROBLEMO.

YOU SERIOUS ABOUT SPLITTING UP AROUND HERE? NO OFFENSE, BUT A WOMAN LIKE YOU ALL ALONE OUT HERE ISN'T A MAJORLY SMART MOVE
GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
WELL, AS A MAN, I THINK I'M OBLIGATED TO AT LEAST OFFER TO ACCOMPANY YOU. AND AS WE BOTH KNOW, I am a gentleman after all
Hmmm
GEE, THANKS. BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN.
ACTUALLY, YEAH. IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA.
Obviously you missed out on the whole Crime General conversation.
WHY, DEE LAYTNER COULD IT BE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT LITTLE OLE ME?
That makes me sooo happy.
You cutie.

OKAY, OKAY, YOU WIN
Scary, much?

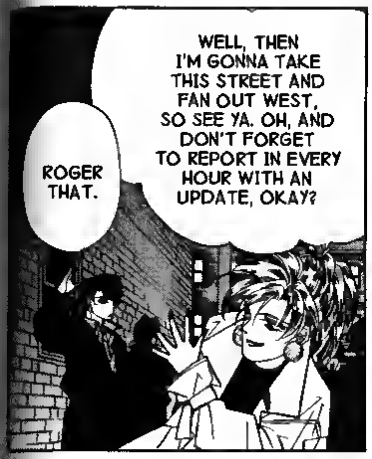
SO THAT YIELDED DIDDLY SQUAT.

GUESS WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO SIT AND TWIDDLE OUR THUMBS UNTIL BERK FINDS OUT WHERE ROD'S HIDING.

THAT'S GOT TO BE RYO'S KID.
MIXED-RACE, BLOND HAIR, AND HE'S A 10-YEAR-OLD BOY.

HMM?!

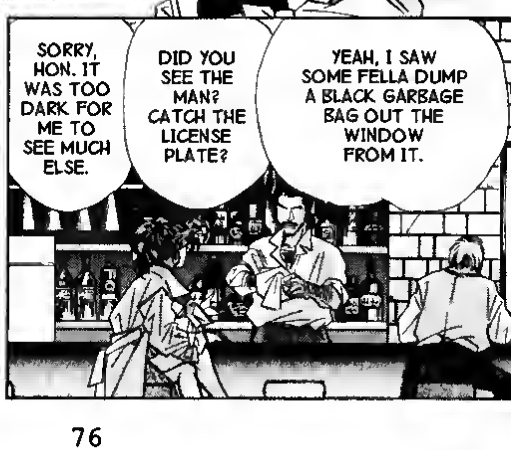
AND HOLY HELL, WHAT'S UP WITH HIM WALKING AROUND ON HIS OWN THIS LATE AT NIGHT? I'VE GOT TO ASK RYO ABOUT THAT.
Looks a bit spooked if you ask me.


ROGER THAT.
WELL, THEN I'M GONNA TAKE THIS STREET AND FAN OUT WEST, SO SEE YA. OH, AND DON'T FORGET TO REPORT IN EVERY HOUR WITH AN UPDATE, OKAY?

I CAN SEE THAT.
I KNOW A BIT OF MARTIAL ARTS YOU KNOW, JUST FOR HEALTH AND BEAUTY AND ALL THAT JAZZ

A BLACK CAR?

I SEE.


SORRY, HON. IT WAS TOO DARK FOR ME TO SEE MUCH ELSE.
DID YOU SEE THE MAN? CATCH THE LICENSE PLATE?
YEAH, I SAW SOME FELLA DUMP A BLACK GARBAGE BAG OUT THE WINDOW FROM IT.

GAARRRGGGHHHH!

DAMN IT, JUST FAINT ALL READY!!
THE HELL?! LET GO OF ME, YOU BASTARD!!

WAAA HHHH!!

WHA??!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, BIKKY!!
OKAY.
GO! RUN, BIKKY!!
Bam
CAN'T DOWN

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, BIKKY?
HUH? HOW THE HELL DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?
YOUR MAMA TOLD ME.

MY MAMA?! OHHH, YOU MEAN RYO?

YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS THERE, DON'T YOU, BIKS?
Bingo
SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE WITH THE POLICE?

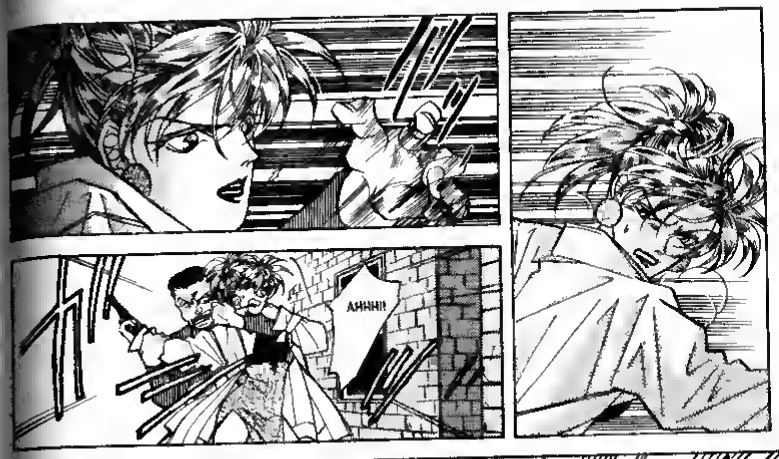
WHOA!! YOU GOT HIM SUCKING TURF WITH ONE HIT!!
DOUBLE WOW.
Man
Whew
That is sooo cool!!
CAN'T DOWN

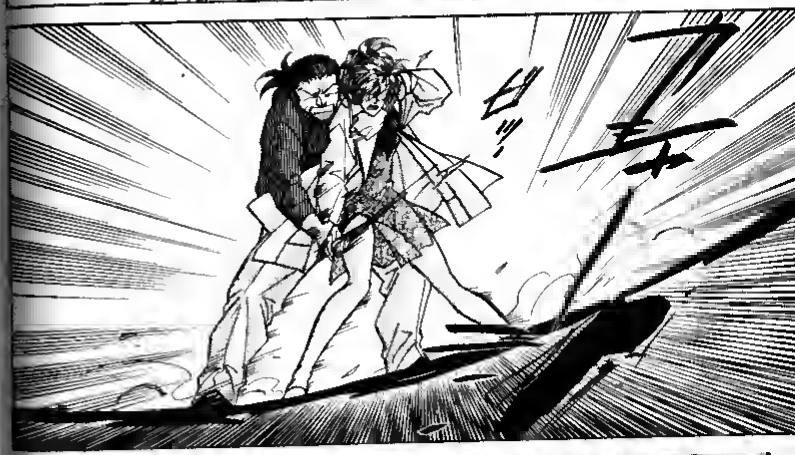
HEY, SAM, GET YOUR ASS OVER HERE!! NOW!
WHOA, TIME TO SLOW DOWN
He's got a gun

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS, HUH?!
HEY, WHAT THE HELL'S TAKING SO--

...EXCUSE FOR A LOSER!!

MAYBE JUST A BIT, BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT THIS IS STARTING TO TAKE A LOT OUT OF ME.
WOOOW. YOU ARE THE COOLEST, LADY!! TOTALLY!


AHHH!!!



TAKE THIS, YOU SORRY...

WHY YOU LITTLE!!
Urrggh
DAH-HHH HH!!
DEE SHOULD BE AROUND SOMEWHERE CLOSE. FIND HIM AHD TELL HIM TO GET OVER HERE!!
HURRY!!
BUT!!
BIKKY, GET OUT OF HERE!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!!
LADY!!
COWAH DOWN
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THIHK YOU'RE DOING, YOU EVIL SHIT HEAD?!
!!
Yaaah-aahh!!
Gaaa!!

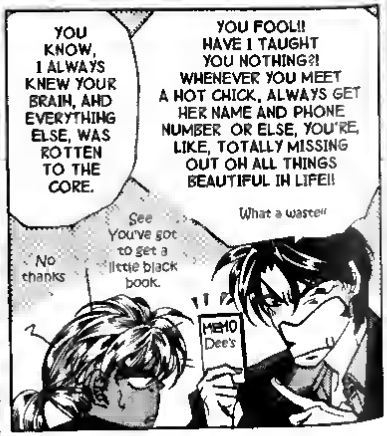
A THIRD ACCIDENT HAS OCCURRED!!

FAKE

WAAAHH HHHH!!
DEE!!

SHE NEVER TOLD ME HER NAME.
WHAT KIND OF DESCRIPTION IS THAT, BRAT? WAIT. A BLOND YOU SAID-- ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT DIANA?!
THIS, LIKE, SUPER HOT CHICK FROM THE PD WITH BLOND HAIR — did I mention she has big boobs?— WAS KICKING MAJOR ASS BUT NOW SHE'S IN TROUBLE!!
SHUT UP AND LISTEN!! THIS IS IMPORTANT!!
WHAT?!
WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH IDIOTS LIKE YOU AND JJ, HUH?! I'M NOT A FREAKIN' CRASH TEST DUMMY!!

OOPS, I FORGOT. THIS WAY.
OH, YEAH. SO WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THE DISTRESSED DIANA ANYWAY?
SQUISH DOWN!

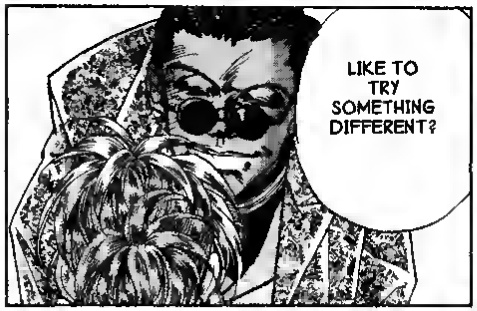

YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS KNEW YOUR BRAIN, AND EVERYTHING ELSE, WAS ROTTEN TO THE CORE.
YOU FOOL!! HAVE I TAUGHT YOU NOTHING?! WHENEVER YOU MEET A HOT CHICK, ALWAYS GET HER NAME AND PHONE NUMBER OR ELSE, YOU'RE, LIKE, TOTALLY MISSING OUT ON ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL IN LIFE!!
No thanks
See You've got to get a little black book.
What a waste!
MEH! Dee's

I SEE. WELL, THANKS FOR YOUR TIME, MUNCHKIN.
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. I DON'T HORMALLY HANG OUT AROUND HERE.

Dee!!
LET'S SEE. OH HEY, I GOTTA CHECK IN WITH DIANA SOON
DAMMIT, NOT ONE EYE-WITNESS.

EHHH?!

WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE HIDEOUT.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE ENTERTAINED A MEMBER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, SO I'M RATHER EXCITED ACTUALLY.
THAT'S THE GUY WE SAW AT THE HOTEL! SO THIS IS THE INFAMOUS ED NIELSEN, HUH?


LIKE TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

DIFFERENT?

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN LIKE YOU WORKING FOR THE FBI. I MUST SAY I THINK IT'S QUITE A WASTE OF YOUR TALENTS. SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?

HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA THROWING A GIRL DOWN ON HER ASS, HUH?! WHAT IF YOU DAMAGE IT OR SOMETHING?! IT COULD GET ALL LOPSIDED!! EVER HEARD OF TREATING A LADY NICE? YOU SKANKY BRUTES!!

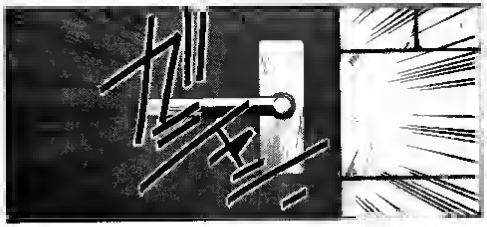
KYAAHHH!!

AWW, COME ON, DON'T HATE ME CUZ' YOU'RE NOT BEAUTIFUL. YOU WERE BORN UGLY, HUN. BEST TO JUST ACCEPT IT.
Honestly, there's a slight improvement.
WHAT?!
WHO YOU CALLING A BRUTE?! YOU FREAKIN' CHANGED THE SHAPE OF OUR FACES, BUT DO YA HEAR US COMPLAINING?! WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT THAT, HUH?!

THAT'S ENOUGH, VICK.

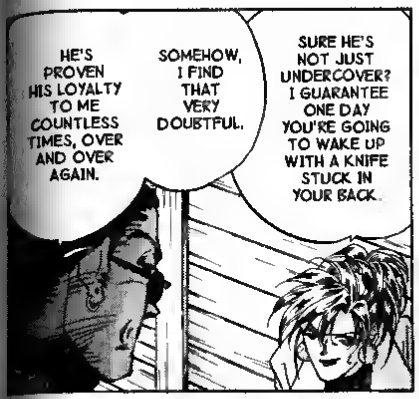
VERY WELL THEN. BY THE WAY, I HEARD YOU WERE LOOKING FOR A MR. ROD FIELD.

SO WHY DON'T I HELP YOU OUT A BIT THERE AND SPEED UP THE PROCESS.



HEY!!

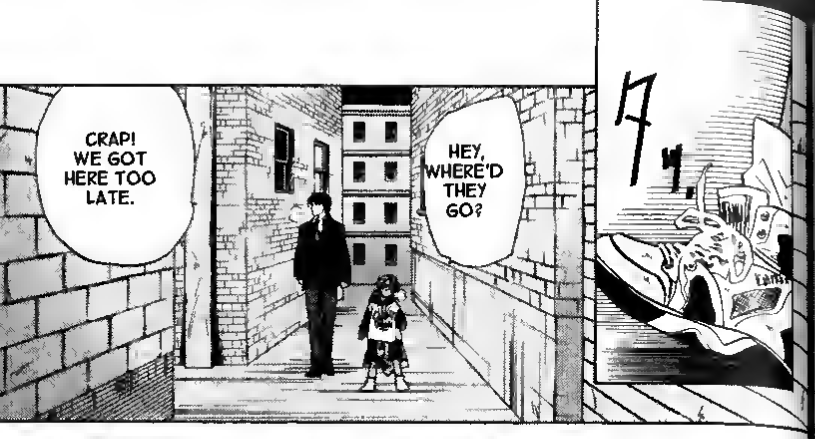
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!


HE'S PROVEN HIS LOYALTY TO ME COUNTLESS TIMES, OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
SOMEHOW, I FIND THAT VERY DOUBTFUL.
SURE HE'S NOT JUST UNDERCOVER? I GUARANTEE ONE DAY YOU'RE GOING TO WAKE UP WITH A KNIFE STUCK IN YOUR BACK.

PRETTY NICE PROMOTION, DON'T YOU SAY?
SEE THIS FELLA HERE? JUST A LOWLY COP FOR THE LAPD BEFORE BUT HOW, HE ACTS AS MY PERSONAL ADVISOR

WHY YOU!!
NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT...
So, no thanks.
HUH WELL, I STILL DON'T APPRECIATE YOU COMPARING ME WITH THE LIKES OF HIM. LAPD TOO TOUGH FOR HIM? WAAH, WAAH PLEASE. I MAY LOOK A BIT FLIGHTY, BUT I'VE GOT A REPUTATION AS A BAD ASS COP IT HURTS MY PRIDE THAT YOU'D GROUP ME WITH A LOSER LIKE HIM.

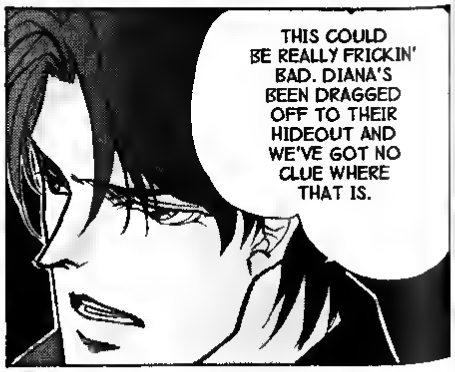
...IF I WAS GONNA TURN, IT CERTAINLY WOULDN'T BE FOR A LOW-CALIBER PUNK LIKE YOU.


CRAP! WE GOT HERE TOO LATE.
HEY, WHERE'D THEY GO?

SO SPILL IT, BIKKY. WHAT HAPPENED?
I DON'T KNOW!! I WAS JUST WALKING HOME WHEN SOME WEIRD LOOKING DUDES TRIED TO GRAB ME AND--
DIANA CAME TO THE RESCUE?
YEAH.

ACTUALLY, WE'VE GOT A PRETTY STRONG LEAD.

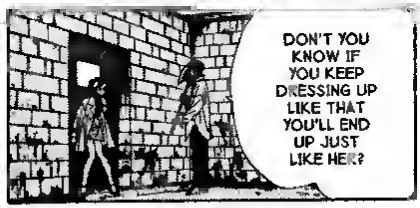
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT WALKING AROUND A DANGEROUS PLACE LIKE THIS AT NIGHT?
You'd better learn from this
Bop
oww


THIS COULD BE REALLY FRICKIN' BAD. DIANA'S BEEN DRAGGED OFF TO THEIR HIDEOUT AND WE'VE GOT NO CLUE WHERE THAT IS.

OH SHIT!! ROD!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? IT JUST ISN'T YOU.
AGAIN WITH THAT LIP-STICK?!

HELLO, ANISE.


DON'T YOU KNOW IF YOU KEEP DRESSING UP LIKE THAT YOU'LL END UP JUST LIKE HER?

LIKE THAT STUPID WHORE!!

BERKELEY. AND RYO.
WE KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HANGING AROUND ED HERE AND THERE. WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL US WHERE WE CAN FIND HIM QUICKLY,
AND SAVE YOURSELF A LITTLE ABUSE.

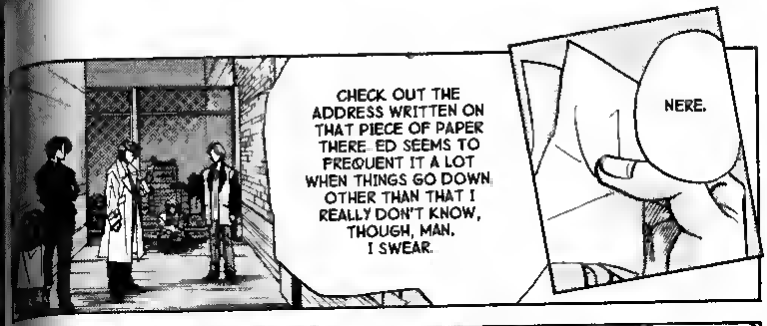
GAAR GGGH HH
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!! THIS IS POLICE BRUTALITY, MAN!! I'M A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN!!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BIT MUCH?
HEY, NOT BAD, HUH? LOOK AT THE STREET THUG GETTING ALL PHILOSOPHICAL AND STUFF.
FESS UP, YOU SCUZZY LITTLE PUNK OR ELSE. GO ON, COMMISSIONER. I GOT HIM.
Do you see yourself, Mr Suddenly Butch?
WEAK LITTLE PRISSY BOY?!
YEAH, LISTEN TO THE WEAK LITTLE PRISSY BOY. YOUR MAN HERE'S TRYING TO KILL ME!!
COMMISSIONER, WHY DON'T WE TRY A MORE PEACEFUL ROUTE?

HUH?!

NOTHING, REALLY. LET'S GO.
Pat
?

WHAT WAS THAT?
I... NOTHING.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?


CHECK OUT THE ADDRESS WRITTEN ON THAT PIECE OF PAPER THERE. ED SEEMS TO FREQUENT IT A LOT WHEN THINGS GO DOWN. OTHER THAN THAT I REALLY DON'T KNOW, THOUGH, MAN. I SWEAR.
NERE.

NOW THAT'S FIGURED OUT, I WANT THE TWO OF YOU TO HEAD BACK TO THE PRECINCT AND CALL FOR BACKUP

WE'LL COME WITH YOU.
IT'S NOT SAFE TO WANDER AROUND HERE ALONE AT NIGHT.

Don't mess up the addy.
IT'S ALL YOU, IKKY.
ROGER THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU?

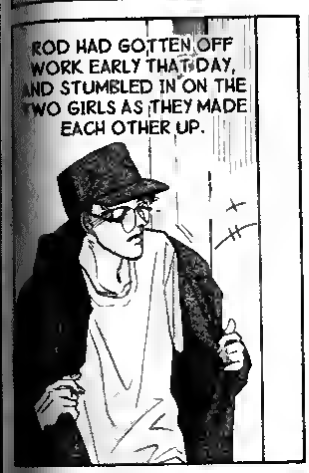
UM, ER, SURE

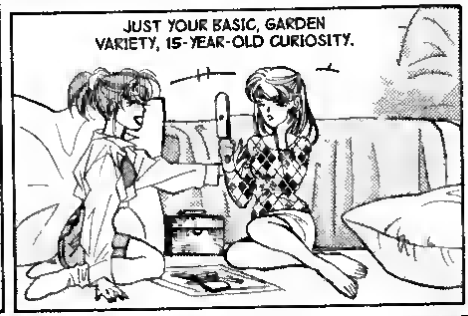
THEY'VE BEEN SENDING ALL THE GIRLS WHO TRIED TO RUN AWAY HERE, FOR ROD TO GET RID OF!!
!!
BUT ROD'S NOT VIOLENT BY NATURE, JUST COWARDLY AT BEST. SO WHY WOULD HE WORK FOR A GROUP LIKE THIS?
NO!

TRACK MARKS?!
AND THAT DRUG SMUGGLER WHO MET ED AT THE HOTEL. HE MUST HAVE TURNED ROD OVER TO ED SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE.
SHIT!! THAT'S IT!! DRUGS. HE'S A JUNKIE! A WEAK BOY LIKE THAT. HE MUST HAVE TURNED TO THEM WHEN THINGS GOT BAD.
ANISE, DON'T YOU LISTEN TO ME ANYMORE? HOW MANY TIMES MUST I SAY THIS?

RIPP...
STOP CHASING AFTER THE SHADOW OF YOUR MOTHER, ROD!!

ON THE DAY OF ANISE AND EVA'S SLAYING, RECEIPTS SHOW THAT ANISE HAD PURCHASED SOME LIPSTICK FROM THE LOCAL COSMETICS STORE


ROD HAD GOTTEN OFF WORK EARLY THAT DAY, AND STUMBLED IN ON THE TWO GIRLS AS THEY MADE EACH OTHER UP.


JUST YOUR BASIC, GARDEN VARIETY, 15-YEAR-OLD CURIOSITY.

HE WALKED IN ON HIS YOUNGER SISTER, WHORED-OUT LIKE HIS MOM AND...

Urrrg hhn
ANISE!!
ROD!!

AAHHHHHH!!

YOU'RE ALWAYS IN OVER YOUR HEAD. YOU ALWAYS WORK TOO HARD, DEE DEE.
THINK I GOT IN OVER MY HEAD JUST A BIT?
YOU LOOK HORRIBLE.
OH, BERKELEY.
THE ONLY TIMES YOU'RE EVER SWEET TO ME ARE TIMES LIKE THIS, HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M ALWAYS SWEET TO YOU.
SLIT.

Gaarr mmh!
BERKELY..
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DIANA?

COMMISSIONER? THE AMBULANCE IS HERE
GOOD.
GET A STRETCHER HERE QUICK.
YES, SIR.
IT WAS A SHALLOW WOUND. SIX MONTHS TOPS FOR A COMPLETE RECOVERY
AND, GIVEN DIANA'S PERSONALITY, I'D BET SHE'LL BE BACK TO HER OLD SELF SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

AS FOR ED, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF LUCK THAT DUDE HAS, BUT HE MANAGED TO GET AWAY WHILE WE RAIDED THAT PLACE.
God damn it
BUT STILL, I DOUBT HE'LL BE SHOWING HIS FACE AROUND MANY SOCIAL CIRCLES ANYTIME SOON.
YEP. THE DRUGS DIDN'T HELP, BUT STILL, HE WAS A LITTLE OFF TO BEGIN WITH..
GOOD. OH, YEAH, AND I HEARD ROD'S GOING IN FOR A PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OR SOMETHING?
I can't even begin to imagine living every day like that
MUMBLE.
ALTHOUGH HE'S NOT LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME, SO..
WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW. JUST SOMETHING ABOUT HIM, I GUESS HE MAKES ME ANTSY. ANNOYED.
I can't explain it.
OTHER THAN THAT!!
BECAUSE HE KEEPS TRYING TO GET HIS GRUBBY MITTS ON YOU.
HEY, DEE WHY DO YOU HATE THE COMMISSIONER SO MUCH?

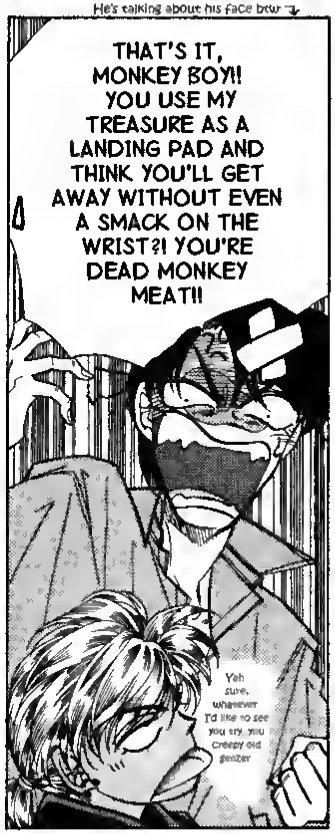
WOULD YOU MIND KISSING ME FOR A SECOND?
DEE?
WHAT?
HOLD ON, BEFORE YOU GET ANY IDEAS AND DON'T START SLURPING ALL OVER MY FACE. JUST GIVE ME A SMALL PECK.
Like a French kiss
YOU REALLY MEAN IT?!
Oh happy, happy, happy day
No we can't.
AND IF YOU DECIDE TO SPICE THINGS UP, THEN I SWEAR, I WON'T TALK TO YOU FOR AT LEAST A YEAR, SO WATCH IT.
Can't we go for some massive face sucking? Like, MUUUWAAHHH
Please!
Boooring
BOO HOO OOUBLE BOO!!
WHEN I SAY SOMETHING, I MEAN IT, OKAY! UNLIKE SOMEONE I KNOW.
Meaning you, dickhead!
DUDE, WHAT ARE WE? IN KINDERGARTEN?
JUST A PECK, REMEMBER?
Maybe I shouldn't have said anything at all
Though I don't see why it's not like it's your first kiss with me
Hmmm
OKAY, OKAY, FINE. JUST A PECK THEN.

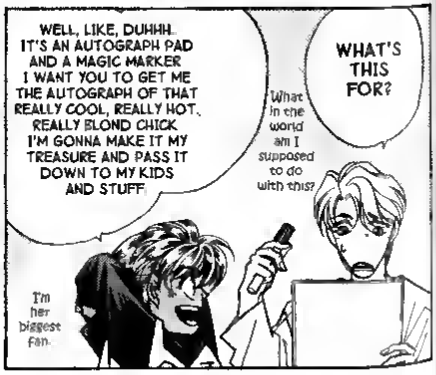
WHAT MAKES SENSE??!
WHAT?!
IT MAKES SENSE.
THOSE TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE. THEIR GAZES. THEIR ATTITUDES.
EVEN DOWN TO THE LITTLE THINGS THEY DO. HT CHANGES IN EXPRESSIONS. IT'S ALL SO SIMILAR.
HMM? BUT WAIT A MINUTE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHO'S SIMILAR TO WHOM? SPIT IT OUT, DAMN IT!!
I GUESS WHEN PEOPLE MEET SOMEONE WHO ACTS LIKE THEY DO, THEY JUST CAN'T HELP BUT GET IRRITATED WITH "THEMSELVES."
Snicker
Grrrr!! You're just trying to freak me out by making me curious!

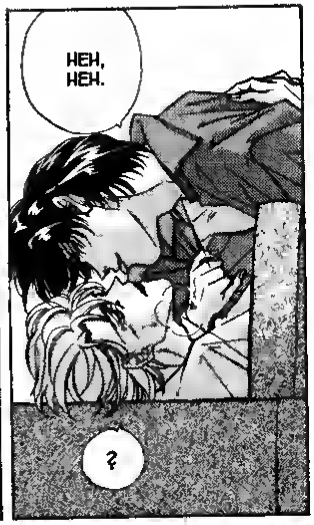
HELP!!
BUT, WELL, THANKS.
THAT WAS NAUGHTY OF ME TO COMPARE THEM LIKE THAT
NNM MM.
MMGG GHHH.
AHH..

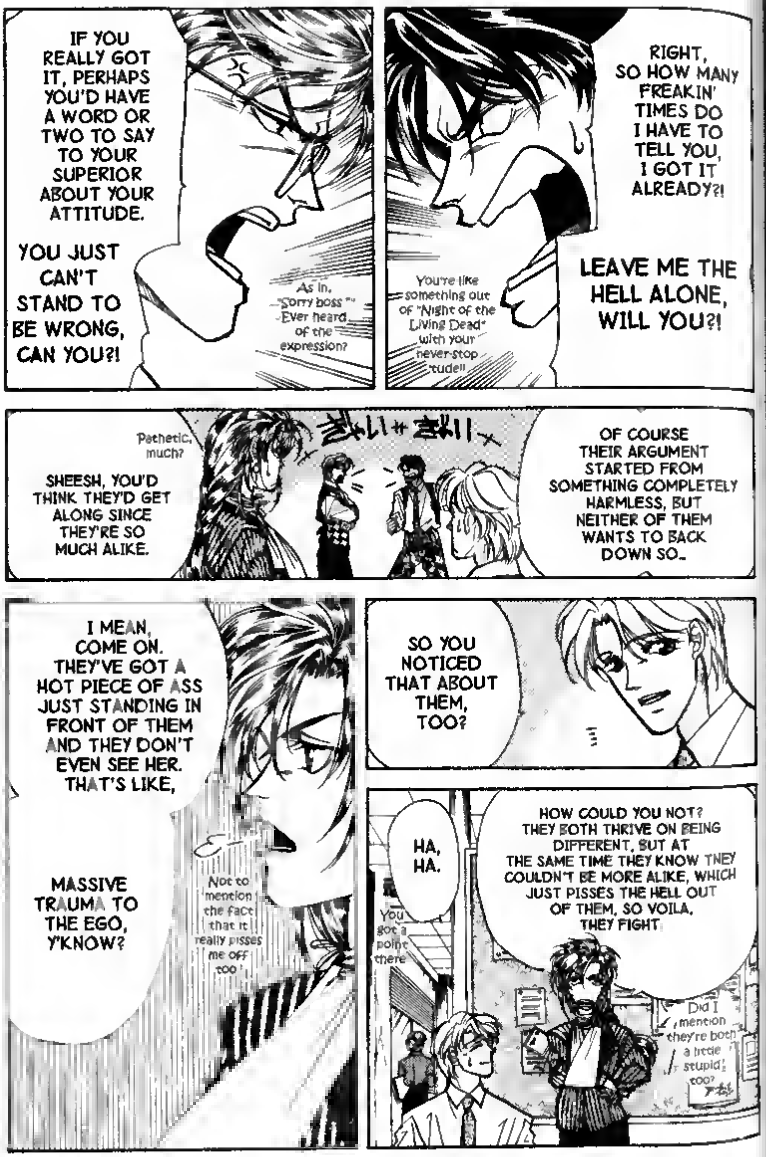
AH.
WHY DO I HAVE BUTTERFLIES ALL A SUDDEN?
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT. THEY KISS DIFFERENTLY.
DEE'S KISS IS JUST..
...SWEETER.

He's talking about his face btw

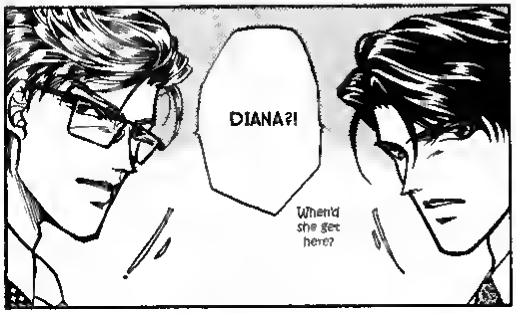

THAT'S IT, MONKEY BOY!! YOU USE MY TREASURE AS A LANDING PAD AND THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITHOUT EVEN A SMACK ON THE WRIST?! YOU'RE DEAD MONKEY MEAT!!
Yeh sure, whatever. I'd like to see you try, you creepy old geezer


WELL, LIKE, DUHHH. IT'S AN AUTOGRAPH PAD AND A MAGIC MARKER I WANT YOU TO GET ME THE AUTOGRAPH OF THAT REALLY COOL, REALLY HOT, REALLY BLOND CHICK I'M GONNA MAKE IT MY TREASURE AND PASS IT DOWN TO MY KIDS AND STUFF
WHAT'S THIS FOR?
What in the world am I supposed to do with this?
I'm her biggest fan.



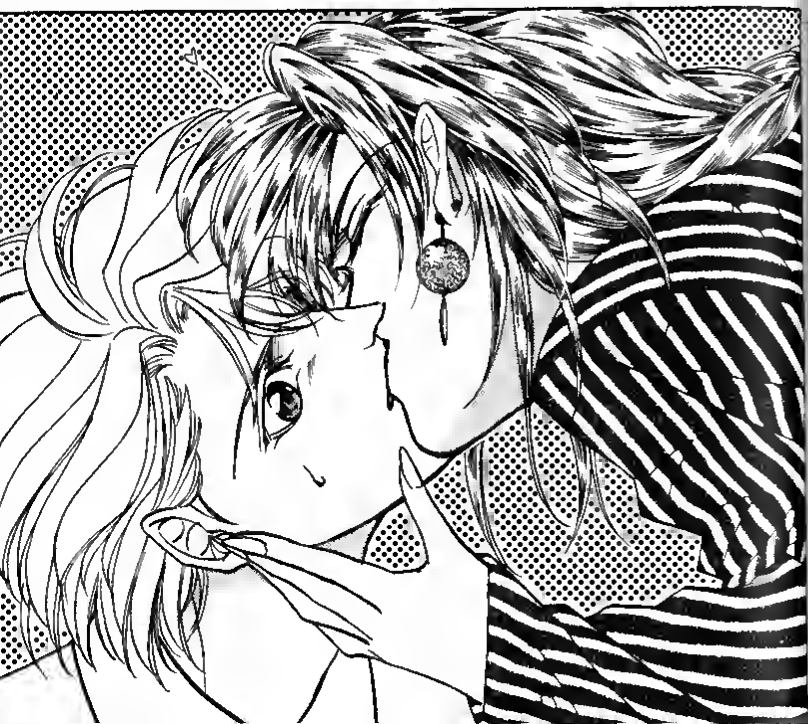

IF YOU REALLY GOT IT, PERHAPS YOU'D HAVE A WORD OR TWO TO SAY TO YOUR SUPERIOR ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDE.
YOU JUST CAN'T STAND TO BE WRONG, CAN YOU?!
As in, "sorry boss"? Ever heard of the expression?
RIGHT, SO HOW MANY FREAKIN' TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, I GOT IT ALREADY?!
LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE, WILL YOU?!
You're like something out of "Night of the Living Dead" with your never-stop attitude!!
Pathetic, much?
SHEESH, YOU'D THINK THEY'D GET ALONG SINCE THEY'RE SO MUCH ALIKE.
OF COURSE THEIR ARGUMENT STARTED FROM SOMETHING COMPLETELY HARMLESS, BUT NEITHER OF THEM WANTS TO BACK DOWN SO...
I MEAN, COME ON. THEY'VE GOT A HOT PIECE OF ASS JUST STANDING IN FRONT OF THEM AND THEY DON'T EVEN SEE HER. THAT'S LIKE,
MASSIVE TRAUMA TO THE EGO, Y'KNOW?
Not to mention the fact that it really pisses me off too!
SO YOU NOTICED THAT ABOUT THEM, TOO?
HA, HA.
You got a point there.
HOW COULD YOU NOT? THEY BOTH THRIVE ON BEING DIFFERENT, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THEY KNOW THEY COULDN'T BE MORE ALIKE, WHICH JUST PISSES THE HELL OUT OF THEM, SO VOILA, THEY FIGHT.
Did I mention they're both a little stupid, too?

Stop moving around like that!!
Get back here, you!
to end up this way Dahhh
Why does it always seem...
NYPD. 27TH PRECINCT.
That whole "residency...got a house there" kind of thing
WELL, YEAH I'VE GOT TIME OFF UNTIL I HEAL UP. BESIDES, SINCE I SORTA LIVE IN L.A. I SHOULD PROBABLY DO SOME OF THE LIVING PART THERE.
YOU'RE GOING BACK?!
GUESS.
BY THE WAY. WHERE'S THE ODD COUPLE?


DIANA?!
When'd she get here?

?

HEY!!
BERK!!
DEE!!
Pull



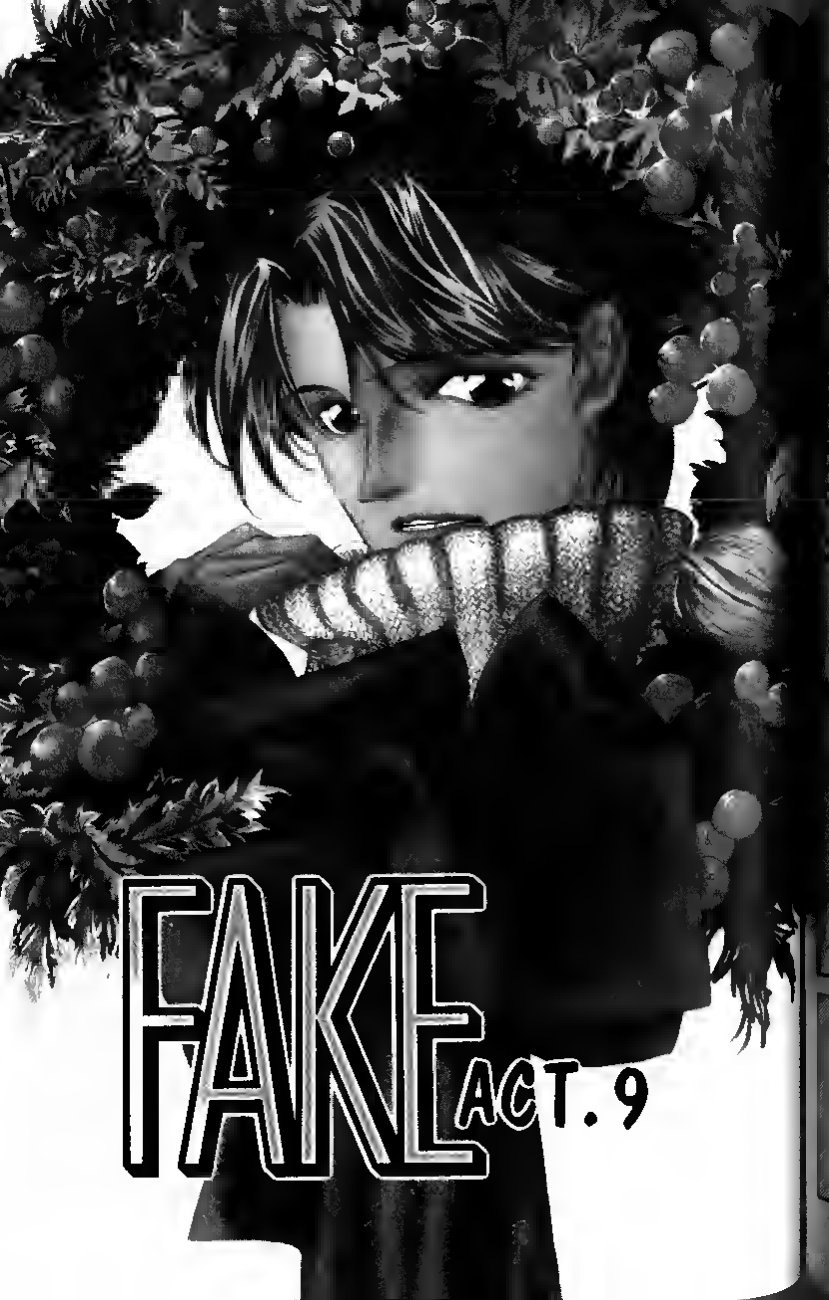
BUT, THE COMMISH.
BERKELEY, HE REALLY CARES A LOT FOR YOU. I CAN TELL.

TRUST ME, I'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU.
HMM, IT'S GONNA BE KINDA AWKWARD IF I LEAVE NOW AFTER BONDING WITH MY ROMANTIC RIVAL INSTEAD OF THREATENING HIM...

THANKS. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? THERE IS ONE THING I CAN DO TO REALLY PISS THEM BOTH OFF AND GET THEIR ATTENTION BEFORE I GO.

WHICH IS?

Think again
HE DOES CARE. BUT LIKE A BROTHER WOULD CARE FOR HIS KID SISTER.



FAKE act.9

HEEEYYYYY!!
SEE YA, LADIES.

Ohhhhh pleasure was mine!
No Fair, Dee Dee! You were supposed to go for Dee Dee Ryan!
Damn you, Diana! How could you?! You cold-hearted witch!"
Which one?
ほーっほほほほほ
"Take that, you evil bitches. And thanks for the yummy meal, Toya."

See you again.
YEAH!! THIS IS AWESOME.
Ryoga

KIRK HARVEY!! YOU'RE UNOER ARREST FOR PROSTITUTION, THE TRADING OF MINORS ANO MURDER!!
OF COURSE. LEAVE THE REST TO--
HERE'S THE LIST. I TRUST YOU'LL BE ABLE TO OELIVER?

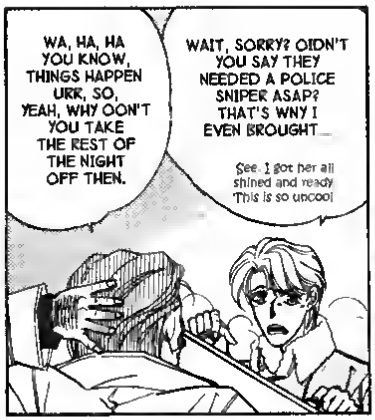
Damn it!!
Waahh!!
Hiii!!
SORRY, HARVEY. I OON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE CHASING YOU OOWN TOOAY OF ALL OAYS.

CHIEF!! AS PROMISED, WE SLAM DUNKED THAT SUCKER, KIRK, SIR!!
ALL RIGHT. ALL OF YOU THAT AREN'T ON THE THIRD SHIFT GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
GOOD JOB, GUYS.
DUDE! DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT TODAY IS?
THINK, THINK, THINK, MAN!
YOU'RE GRINNING LIKE THE CHESHIRE CAT, AREN'T YOU?

ONNN.
JESUS. DECEMBER 24TH?
TODAY, HUH? HMMM. GIVE ME A CLUE.
BINGO!!
IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE, DUMMY.
ACK!! DRAKE!!
HEY! TED! COME ON BUDDY, SWITCH WITH ME. PLEEAASSE!!
I HAD TO USE ALL MY WITS. AND ALL MY WHINING. BUT NEVERTHELESS DUDE,
I've still got a date on Christmas Eve!
OH MAN, YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I HAD TO GO THROUGH TO GET TONIGHT OFF
AWW, COME ON I PROMISED MY GIRL I'D CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE WITH HER. SHE'S GONNA DUMP ME (AGAIN) IF I DON'T!!
Let go of me, man!!
Pretty please? Pwease?
HELL NO!! I CAME TO WORK ON MY OFF DAYS SO I COULD GET THE EVE OFF, MAN!!
UH, UH NO WAY, NO HOW MY ADVICE IS TO DUMP HER FIRST SO SHE CAN'T DUMP YOU!!

YOU SEE, SOON-TO-BE DUMPEE, ME AND RYO ARE GONNA SPEND--
AS IF.
DEE!! COME ON, MAN. BUDDY??! JUST TRADE WITH ME.. PLEASE? YOU KNOW I'M GOOD FOR IT.
WHAT?! WAIT!! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
YES, SIR.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO, RANDY.
YOU IDIOT!! HAVEN'T WONDROUS IMAGES OF CHRISTMAS EVE BEEN FILLING YOUR EMPTY FLIGHTY HEAD? EVEN ONE?!
BUT... YOU WEREN'T SCHEDULED TO WORK THIRD SHIFT TONIGHT. SO HOW?!
URR, WITH THE CAPTAIN.
On a call.
WELL, NO, BUT SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PLANS, I SWITCHED WITH MARTY.
It's not like I had anything better to do
AND THAT.
WE COULD HAVE DONE THAT.
AND A LITTLE BIT OF THAT.
MAYBE WE COULD HAVE DONE A BIT OF THIS AND THAT AS WELL.
And I know I'm setting my hopes a bit high but
I'M COLD-HEARTED, HUH?
Sure, you can just smell the guilt pouring out of me
BUT NOOOO!! YOU COLD-HEARTED BASTARD!!
Ruining my bulletproof plan for work!!

DAMN IT, ALL RIGHT, DRAKE!!
Come on!!
HUH?
WAIT, YOU EXPECT MONEY FOR THIS?!
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT? 10 BUCKS OR YOUR GIRL?
Shut up and pay up
I'LL SWITCH WITH YOU
YOU MEAN IT?!
YOU MEAN IT?! YEAH, BUT ONLY IF YOU GIVE ME 10 BUCKS.
Thank you—
DAMN IT. FINE I HATE YOU GUYS THAT DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW TOUGH IT IS TA GET CHICKS.
Think you're all that just because you're a pretty boy, huh?
I'm not just pretty- dude I'm uber hot Now pay up
DRAKE!!
HMM? THAT'S FUNNY WHERE DID YOU GO, DRAKE? WE'VE GOT A CASE!
HOT DANG!! I FORGET THAT DRAKE'S PARTNER IS JJ!!
The conditioned response of the Dana Lawrence to an air horn the human's mind gets
UHH, DRAKE, Y'KNOW WHAT? I CHANGED MY... AAHHH!! DAMMIT!! HE'S GONE!!
So now he's Speedy Gonzalez all a sudden?
$10
DH COME ON, DEE. YOU SAID YOU'D SWITCH WITH HIM, SO SUCK IT UP, OKAY?
WHAAA?! I GET TO WORK WITH DEE TONIGHT?!
How totally irresponsible
ARRGGHH
OKIE DOKIE, DEE. LET'S GO!! WE'VE GOT A BANK ROBBERY, AND YOU KNOW HOW LONG THOSE TAKE TO WRAP UP.
THEN WHY THE HELL DO YOU LOOK SO HAPPY, HUH?
WELL, UURRHH, DEE.


WA, HA, HA YOU KNOW, THINGS HAPPEN URR, SO, YEAH, WHY OON'T YOU TAKE THE REST OF THE NIGHT OFF THEN.
WAIT, SORRY? OIDN'T YOU SAY THEY NEEDED A POLICE SNIPER ASAP? THAT'S WNY I EVEN BROUGHT...
See. I got her all shined and ready. This is so uncool

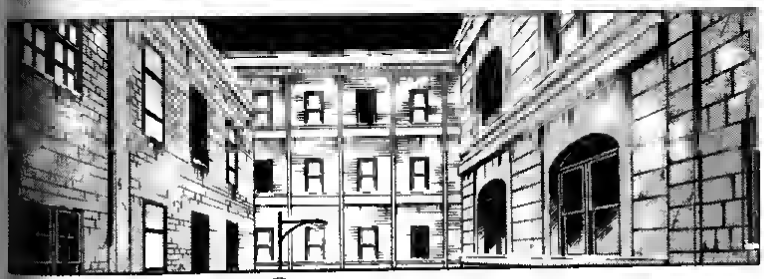
YEAH, I GUESS THERE WAS A CRIME COMMITTED, BUT NOTHING THE BOYS DOWN HERE COULDN'T HANDLE. SO, WE CAME OUT ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING. SORRY.
A MISTAKE?

しゅたたたっ
ENJOY YOUR CHRISTMAS EVE, RANOY. GET SOME REST OR SOMETHING!!
HEY! WAIT!! CHIEF?!
Get back here!

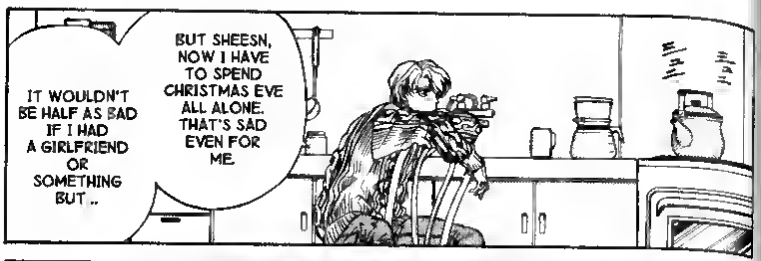
Sheesh.

STOP WITH THE SCARY TALK!! WHAT IF SOMEONE GETS THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT US?! THIS IS WORK, DOLT!! NOTHING ELSE, CAPISH?!
I GET TO SPEND THE MOST ROMANTIC NIGHT IN THE WORLD WITH MY BELOVED DEE. WHY WOULDN'T I BE HAPPY? PURR, PURR
It's like a dream

OKAY, WHATEVER. LET'S GO, STUD!!



WHAT?!

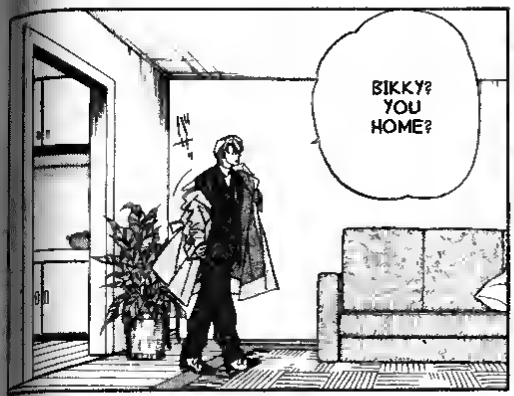

IT WOULDN'T BE HALF AS BAD IF I HAD A GIRLFRIEND OR SOMETHING BUT..
BUT SHEESH, NOW I HAVE TO SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE ALL ALONE. THAT'S SAD EVEN FOR ME.

Ten,

WHY DIDN'T HE JUST ASK ME TO BEGIN WITH? THEN WE COULD HAVE A...
I WONDER IF HE REALLY WAS GOING TO ASK ME OUT TONIGHT.
ME AND RYO ARE GONNA SPEND--
BUT HOLD ON.

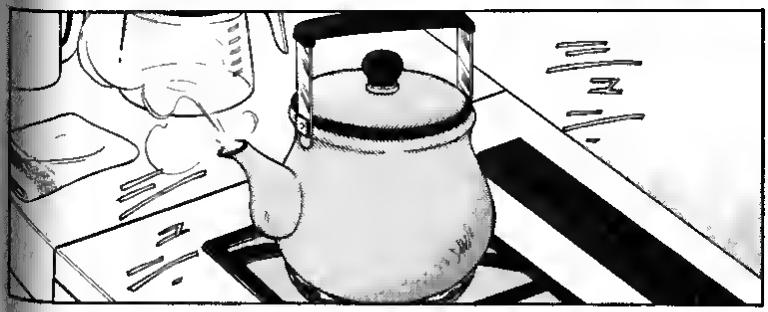
Bad, bad!
NO WAY!! DEE'S DEFINITELY NOT MY "SOMETHING"!!

HELL, WHAT AM I SAYING. NOW IT'S LIKE I WAS REALLY EXPECTING HIM TO OR SOMETNING.
ACK.


BIKKY? YOU HOME?

I'M BACK!

Any time, Ryo.
It's a sleep ovah!!
OH THAT'S RIGHT, I FORGOT. I FELT BAD BIKKY WOULD HAVE TO SPEND THE EVE ALONE SO, I SENT HIM TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT CAROL'S.



SIGH.
I WAS ONLY 18 THEN.
IT SURE HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE MY LAST CHRISTMAS EVE ALONE.

THE YEAR MY PARENTS DIED. RIGHT ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
RANDY.
18 years old
YEP.
YOU HEADED HOME?
JEFF.
MY PARENTS ARE COMING BACK TODAY.

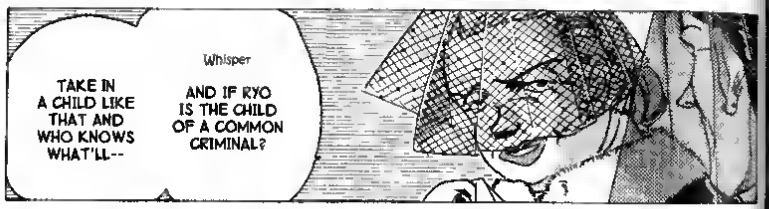
ELENA?
AUNT ELENA?
RYO!!
WNAT'S TNE MATTER, ELENA?
I TNOUGNT YOU WERE SPENDING TNE NOLIDAYS IN SPAIN??!
OH RYO! I'M SO GLAD I FOUND YOU QUICKLY.

I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IH MONTHS SO I FIGURED I'D GET HOME EARLY.
YEP. BUT SINCE CHRISTMAS IS COMIHG UP THEY'RE COMING BACK TO CELEBRATE WITH ME.
ON YEAN. YOU MENTIONED SOMETNING ABOUT THAT. YOUR PARENTS WORK IN EUROPE, RIGNT?
AHD DON'T FORGET ABOUT TOMORROW.
SEE YA. BYE
OKAY, OKAY I PROMISE I WILL.
WE NEED YOU, SO YOU BETTER SHOW UP.
YEAH, I HEAR YOU, MAH OKAY, WELL, HAVE FUN THEN. DON'T FORGET WE'VE GOT A SOCCER MATCH TOMORROW AGAINST ROGER'S TEAM
Thanks
I'll let you off easy this time since it's a special case
キキッ!!

WE NEED TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, RYO.
YOUR PARENTS, THEY WERE IN A CAR ACCIDENT.
T·D HOSPITAL
I'M VERY SORRY, BUT BY THE TIME THEY GOT TO US IT WAS TOO LATE. WE WEREN'T ABLE TO BRING THEM BACK.

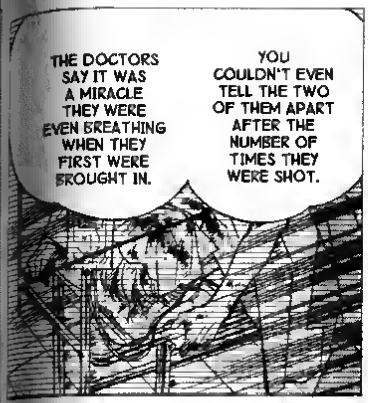
POLICE? BUT WHY?
PLEASE, ELENA.
AUNT ELENA, WHAT'S WITH THE POLICE OFFICERS?
JUST TELL ME THE TRUTH, OKAY?
IT-IT WAS AN ACCIDENT AFTER ALL, SO--
THE POLICE FOUND A LARGE AMOUNT OF COCAINE IN THE TRUNK OF YOUR PARENTS' CAR THEY'VE DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE THEM FOR SMUGGLING IT INTO THE COUNTRY FROM EUROPE.--

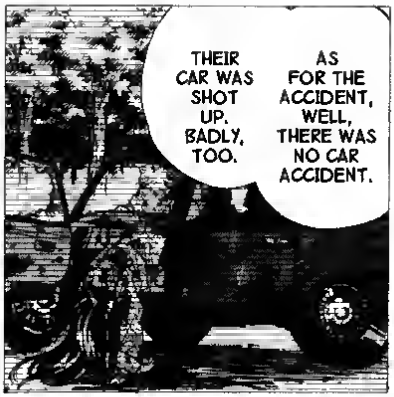
NO ONE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD TAKE HIM IN. HE'D COST A BUNDLE TO CARE FOR.
HE'S 18 YEARS OLD NOW BUT STILL, WHERE IS HE GOING TO GO?
THEY WERE ART DEALERS IN EUROPE, OR SO I'VE HEARD. QUITE LUCRATIVE.
MAYBE HIS PARENTS LEFT HIM SOME SPENDING MONEY.
THE WIFE'S BODY IS STILL IN POLICE CUSTODY, I HEAR
LOOK, RYO'S NOT EVEN CRYING.


TAKE IN A CHILD LIKE THAT AND WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL--
Whisper
AND IF RYO IS THE CHILD OF A COMMON CRIMINAL?

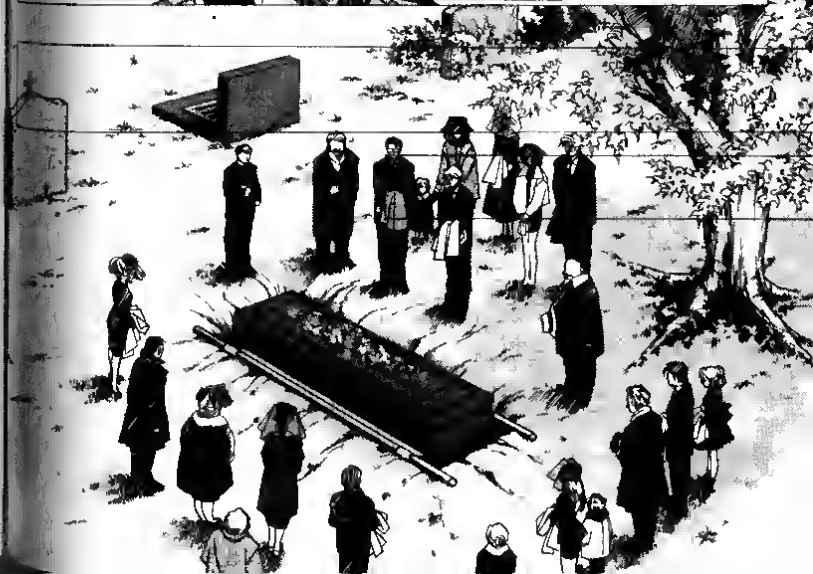
IT'S FRANK'S LITTLE SISTER. SHE'S SOME HOT-SHOT CAMERA WOMAN OR SOMETHING.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, HUH?

EXCUSE ME!!
Coming through!!


THE DOCTORS SAY IT WAS A MIRACLE THEY WERE EVEN BREATHING WHEN THEY FIRST WERE BROUGHT IN.
YOU COULDN'T EVEN TELL THE TWO OF THEM APART AFTER THE NUMBER OF TIMES THEY WERE SHOT.


THEIR CAR WAS SHOT UP. BADLY, TOO.
AS FOR THE ACCIDENT, WELL, THERE WAS NO CAR ACCIDENT.

BUT MAYBE THE OFFICERS, MAYBE THEY COULD FILL IN OTHER DETAILS.
I DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY EXACTLY.



...IT'S NOT GOOD TO HOLD BACK WHEN THE ONLY THING YOU WANT TO DO IS CRY.

TELL

HELLO?

OOHH, AUNT ELENA UH-HUH YEAH

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M A LITLE LONELY BUT I'M OKAY.
I'M SO SORRY YOU HAVE TO SPEHD CHRISTMAS EVE ON YOUR OWN
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? ARE YOU TOO LONELY?

OKAY.

AND YOU BIDDIES NEEDN'T FRET ABOUT WHO'S TAKING RYO IN, BECAUSE MY HUSBAND AND I ARE. SO THERE.
THE NAME'S ELENA.

OF COURSE I'M SURE. DON'T LISTEN TO OLD WOMEN LIKE THAT.
Just ignore them.
ARE YOU SURE, AUNT ELENA?

HUH? I...
LET'S GO, RYO.

LIKE I CARE I'M USED TO IT
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
THOSE WOMEN ARE PROBABLY GOING TO TURN ON YOU NOW.

MY BROTHER, YOUR FATHER, WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT!!
ESPECIALLY MEGA BITCHES WHO CALL THEIR OWN RELATIVES "CRIMINALS"

I'VE NEVER SPENT CHRISTMAS EVE ALONE BEFORE. I'VE ALWAYS HAO THEM. UNTIL NOW.

MAYBE I'M NOT FINE AFTER ALL.

DARN IT. I THOUGHT I'D BE OVER THAT BY NOW. GUESS NOT. I'M WEAK. WEAK.

HEY, AUNT ELENA?
WHAT IS IT?
ALL RIGHT. GOOD NIGHT THEN

OKAY.
I'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE YOU STAY AT MY PLACE STARTING NEXT MONTH, SO JUST BE STRONG UNTIL THEN. OKAY?

THANK YOU, FOR TAKING ME IN. I... I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.

OKAY YEAH UH-HUH BYE

OH COME ON NOW. WE'RE FAMILY, SO NO THANK YOU'S OR APPRECIATION OR WHATEVER. AND MY HUSBAND, RICK, HE'S REALLY PSYCHED ABOUT YOU COMING TO STAY WITH US.
ALL RIGHT

OH, THERE YOU ARE.

THE CHIEF SAID YOU WENT HOME EARLY TOO, SO..
OH THAT THING? WELL, TURNS OUT THE PERP WAS A COWARDLY PIECE OF GARBAGE SO HE PRETTY MUCH GAVE UP RIGHT AWAY, SO I GOT TO COME HOME EARLY.

DEE!

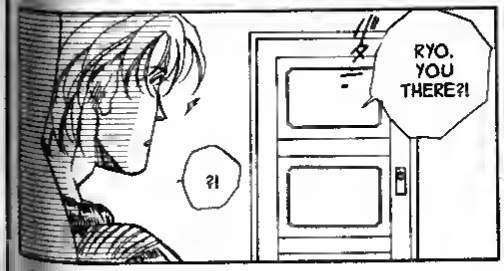
I THOUGHT YOU HAD A BANK ROBBERY
WHAT KIND OF COP ARE YOU? OOH, IT'S NICE AND TOASTY IN HERE
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF LOCKING YER DOORS AT NIGHT?
Thank God you have the heat on

TA DA! I BROUGHT OVER CHAMPAGNE, SOME MUNCHIES, AND A TEENY TINY TREE..
Take that!
And by the way, the decorations on this puppy were by yours truly

AND AFTER THAT, I'D ALWAYS SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE WITH AUNT ELENA, UNCLE RICK OR MY FRIENDS.

I GUESS THE ONLY TIME I'VE REALLY SPENT CHRISTMAS EVE ALONE WAS THAT ONE YEAR WHEN I WAS 18. THAT ONE NIGHT.

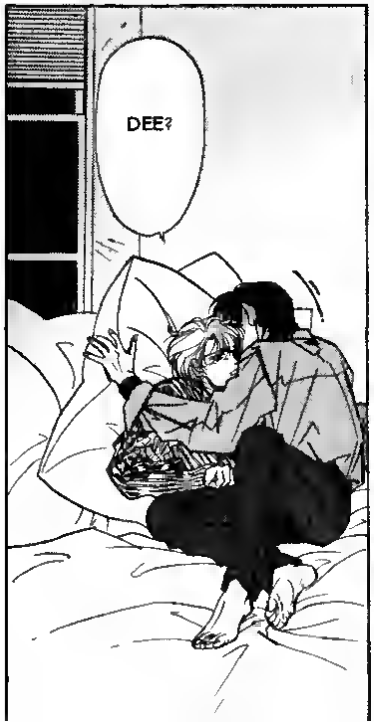
GUESS I'M NOT AS MUCH OF A SMOOTH TALKER AS I THOUGHT. I DIDN'T FALL FOR THAT ES ONE BIT.

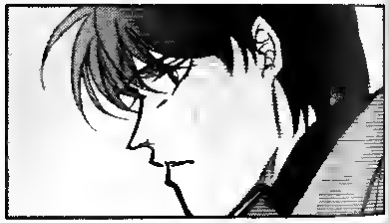

RYO, YOU THERE?!
?!

AND THERE HAVE BEEN PLENTY OF NIGHTS I'VE SPENT ALONE, SO NO BIGGIE, RIGHT?
OKAY, WHATEVER. I'M MAKING ALL THIS WORSE FOR MYSELF. SURE IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE, BUT IN THE BIG SCHEME OF THINGS, IT'S REALLY JUST ANOTHER DAY.

I...
I'M SORRY.
I JUST...

I JUST CAN'T HELP MYSELF.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HAPPY YOU JUST MADE ME.


DEE?



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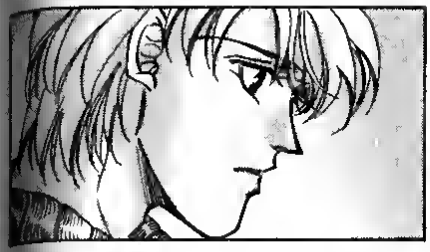
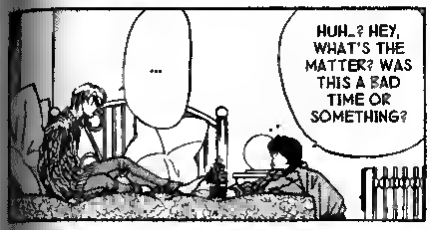
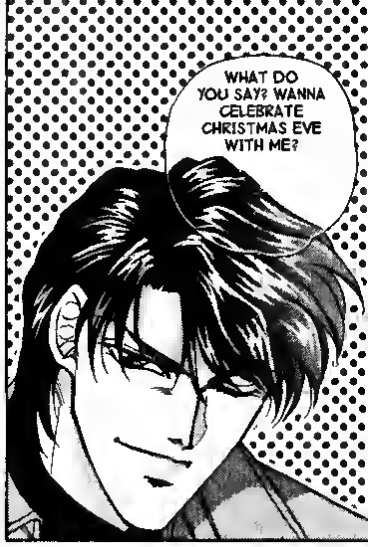



...
HUH..? HEY, WHAT'S THE MATTER? WAS THIS A BAD TIME OR SOMETHING?

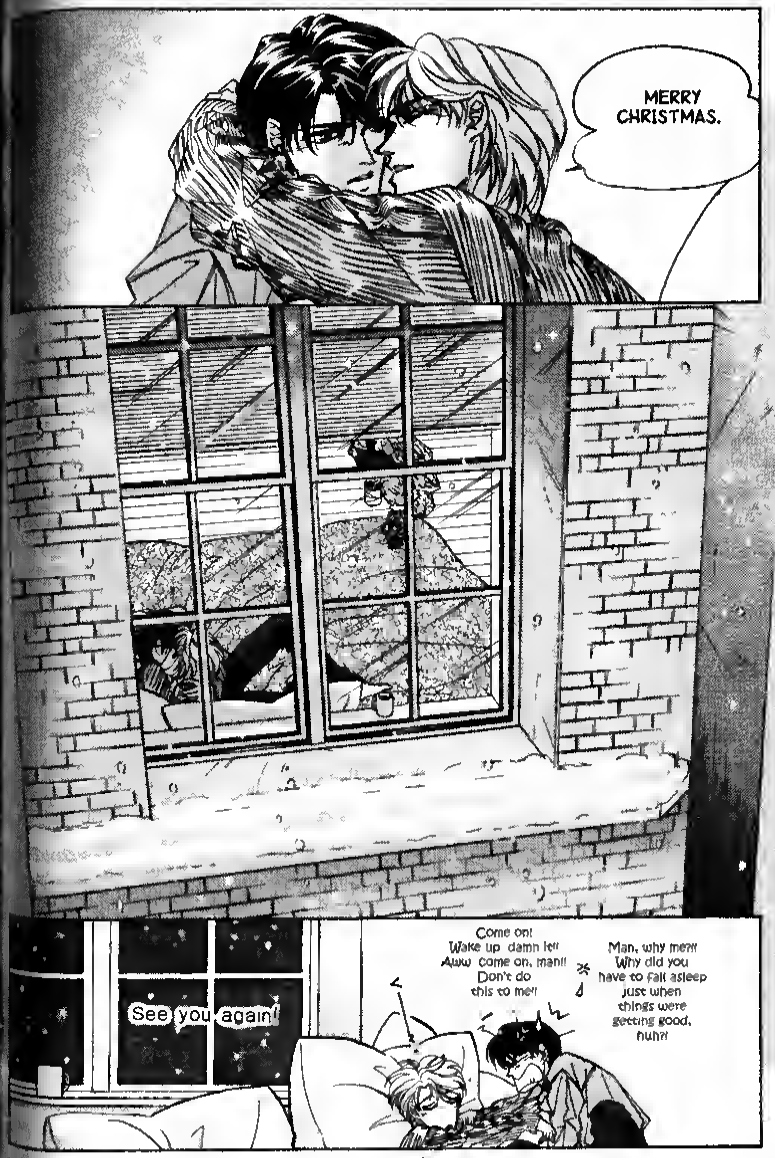

WHAT DO YOU SAY? WANNA CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE WITH ME?

ACK!!

Sob!
WHOA!! WHAT'S GOING ON??! ARE YOU CRYING? AWW, COME ON, MAN. YOU'RE LIKE 20-SOMETHING, SO QUIT IT, OKAY? PLEASE?
And please tell me whatever you're crying about isn't my fault

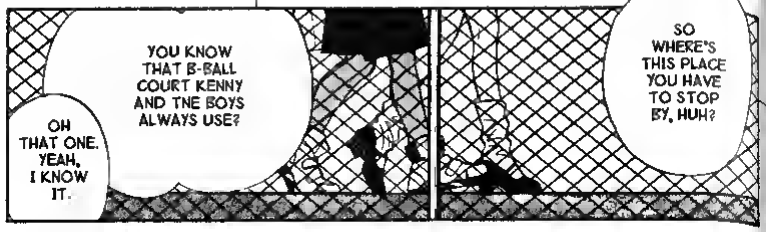
IT STARTED SNOWING AGAIN.
OH, WOW!
HEY.
IT MUST BE MIDNIGHT.
CAN YOU HEAR THAT? THE CHURCH BELLS..
IT'S CHRISTMAS, DEE.

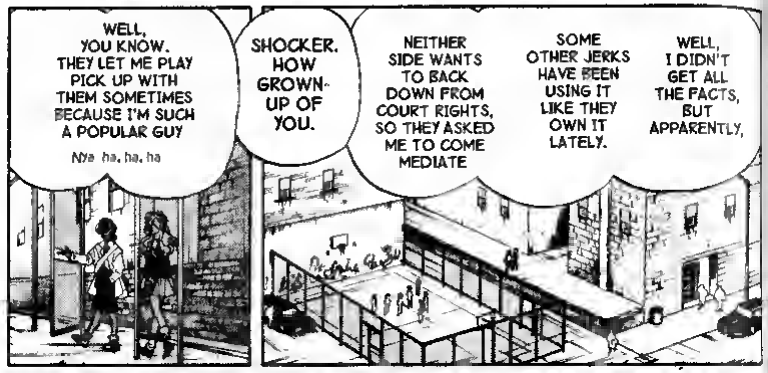
FAKE act.10


MERRY CHRISTMAS.
See you again!
Come on! Wake up damn it! Aiuu come on, man!! Don't do this to me!!
Man, why me!! Why did you have to fall asleep just when things were getting good, huh!!

ARE YOU TWO ALL RIGHT?!
OW OW OW...
KYAAH HH!!
WAAA HHHH!!
JUST HOW MUCH LONGER WERE YOU PLANNING ON SITTING ON TOP OF HER, HUH? LOSER!!
WHA--?!
HOLY CRAP! I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THAT. I DIDN'T HURT YOU, DID I?
I-I'M FINE, THANK YOU. AND I'M SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN PAYING BETTER ATTENTION TO WHERE I WAS GOING.
GAAH HH!!

Scan
OOOHH, THERE SHE IS!
ACK!!
Carol!!


OH THAT ONE. YEAH, I KNOW IT.
YOU KNOW THAT B-BALL COURT KENNY AND TNE BOYS ALWAYS USE?
SO WHERE'S THIS PLACE YOU HAVE TO STOP BY, HUH?


WELL, YOU KNOW. THEY LET ME PLAY PICK UP WITH THEM SOMETIMES BECAUSE I'M SUCH A POPULAR GUY
Nya ha, ha, ha
SHOCKER. HOW GROWN-UP OF YOU.
NEITHER SIDE WANTS TO BACK DOWN FROM COURT RIGHTS, SO THEY ASKED ME TO COME MEDIATE
SOME OTHER JERKS HAVE BEEN USING IT LIKE THEY OWN IT LATELY.
WELL, I DIDN'T GET ALL THE FACTS, BUT APPARENTLY,

HUH?!

!!

WAAHHH!!

LAI? DON'T YOU TNINK THAT WAS JUST A BIT OUT OF LINE?
YOU OKAY, LASS?
Snap

WHY YOU LITTLE!!

BUT LASS!
NO BUTS. JUST COME ON.
LAI, STOP THAT. ROB'S WAITING FOR US, SO COME ON. WE HAVE TO GO.
HOW DARE YOU!
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, PUNK. YOU KICKED ME FIRST, YOU MONKEY-BRAINED BASTARD. BRING IT ON.

Whatever

OON'T BE, OKAY? IT REALLY WAS HIS FAULT AFTER ALL.
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT. HONESTLY.
Gare.

YOU SAID IT!
OH THIS LOOKS GOOD SO MUCH FOR A PEACEFUL MEDIATION.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE, HUH?
YOU'RE THAT GIRL FROM SCHOOL
Hi
OH!
OH, THAT'S BECAUSE LAI GOES TO GRAD SCHOOL.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM AROUND SCHOOL BEFORE.
MY NAME'S LASS. AND THAT'S LAI.
I'M CAROL. AND THAT'S BIKKY.
YOU'RE IN MS. SYDNEY'S CLASS? I SEE YOU IN THE HALLS SOMETIMES.
Nice to meet you.
MORE LIKE INFAMOUS, IF YOU ASK ME.
And the sad thing is all his infamy is for some majorly stupid shit
BIKKY'S SUPER POPULAR, RIGHT? EVERYONE AT SCHOOL KNOWS WHO HE IS. HE'S ALMOST FAMOUS
BAD BOY
I'm 17 now, btw.
WITH BIKKY IT'S LIKE A TOTAL SURPRISE IF HE ACTUALLY PASSES. THEY'RE THE SAME AGE RIGHT?
WHAT?! WOW, HE MUST BE WAY SMART.
YEAH, ME AND LAI ARE BOTH 14
BUT YEAH, I THINK YOU AND I COULD BE FRIENDS TOO
They won't get along for a second
Even if those two bums don't get along
Shake hand.
AT ANY RATE, I THINK WE COULD BECOME VERY GOOD FRIENDS
158
HOLD UP A SECOND. IF BOTH OF YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PLAYING HERE, THEN HOW COME THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU GUYS HAVE EVER MET, HUH?!
Am I the only one who thinks that's odd?
AS IF. THIS IS OUR COURT. WE'VE BEEN PLAYING HERE FOR FOREVER!!
Lai's friend
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE, DUDE. THIS IS OUR COURT, AND IT'S ALWAYS BEEN OUR COURT.
Bikky's friend
MAN, YOU GUYS ARE BOTH BRAINLESS MORONS.
And I'm the one flunking middle school?
AND WE USE IT ON TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS.
I DON'T KNOW. WE ALWAYS USE THE COURT ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS, MAN.
Um...
BRING IT ON, YOU CHINESE MONKEY!!
YOU WANNA GET TROUNCED?
I thought we were supposed to have a peaceful negotiation deal?
What about our arguments?
Um, guys?
NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED, SINCE TODAY'S THURSDAY, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR LITTLE PRISSY POSSE AND SKEDADDLE, HUH? YOU LITTLE BLOND SHRIMP
COME AGAIN, YOU SHORT-LEGGED OIPSHIT?
159

YOU GUYS ARE ON A BASKETBALL COURT FOR CRYING OUT LOUD. SO WHY DON'T YOU SETTLE THINGS WITH A BALL INSTEAD OF USING YOUR FISTS.
WATCH ME!!
I THINK... YOU CAN BREAK THROUGH?!
ACTUALLY, THEY'RE REALLY GOOD... EXCELLENT, EVEN.
HEY, THOSE TWO AREN'T BAD

OOH, LOOKEE HERE. HOW CUTE. LITTLE BOYS TRYING TO ACT LIKE MEN ON OUR COURT.
I THINK MAYBE I SHOULD EXCHANGE A FEW PLEASANTRIES WITH THEM.
HELLO, LADIES.
ARE THOSE YOUR BOYFRIENDS OVER THERE?
!!

WHY DON'T YOU ALL CLEAR OUT OF HERE
YO.
Crack
Yes?
Click

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS GOING ON ABOUT?

GAA-HHH-HH!!

RGGHH!!

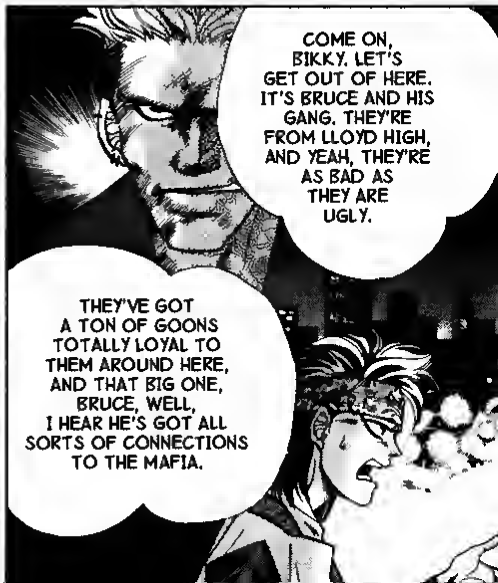
THIS IS THE BIG BOY'S PLAYGROUND. THE SANDBOX IS DOWN THE ROAD.

Let go, you loser!!
Knee-strike

YO, HEY THERE, RUGRATS.

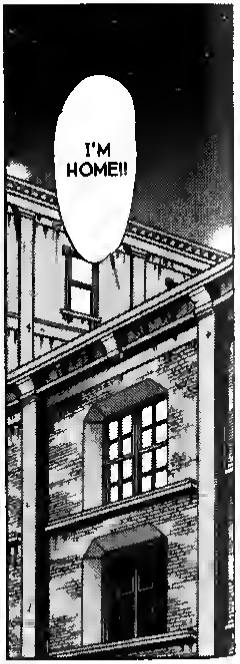
IT'S BRUCE, MAN.
WHAT THE HELL?!
Is he as tough as he is ugly?

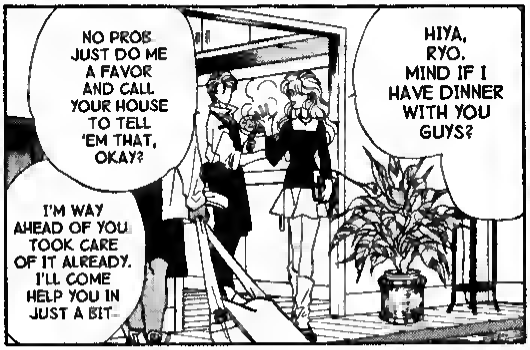
WELL, I'VE GOT TO AGREE WITH YOU ON THAT.
HMM... AND? CAN'T BE THAT TOUGH IF HE'S GOTTA USE A GIRL AS A SHIELD. THAT'S PITIFUL.


COME ON, BIKKY. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. IT'S BRUCE AND HIS GANG. THEY'RE FROM LLOYD HIGH, AND YEAH, THEY'RE AS BAD AS THEY ARE UGLY.
THEY'VE GOT A TON OF GOONS TOTALLY LOYAL TO THEM AROUND HERE, AND THAT BIG ONE, BRUCE, WELL, I HEAR HE'S GOT ALL SORTS OF CONNECTIONS TO THE MAFIA.

I'LL MAKE SURE THEY PAY FOR THIS!!
WHY YOU LITTLE!!
What?!

OH HEY, WELCOME BACK.
HI, CAROL. NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.


I'M HOME!!

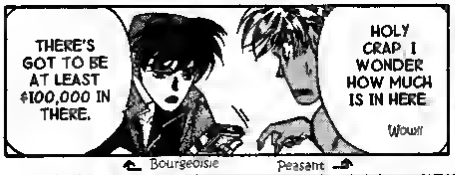

NO PROB. JUST DO ME A FAVOR AND CALL YOUR HOUSE TO TELL 'EM THAT, OKAY?
HIYA, RYO. MIND IF I HAVE DINNER WITH YOU GUYS?
I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU. TOOK CARE OF IT ALREADY. I'LL COME HELP YOU IN JUST A BIT.

HUH?!
YOU SHIT-HEAD!!
Hmmm
GRGGHHH!!

WHO'S BAD?
WELL, I HEARD THEY'RE REALLY, REALLY BAD. I CAN'T HELP BUT BE A LITTLE WORRIED.
YUP, YUP. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
HEY, BIKKY. YOU SURE IT WAS SAFE TO BEAT UP ON THOSE GUYS BACK THERE?
Yo
DEE.
YEAH RIGHT. A FIGHT WITH SOME KID WHO'S SUPPOSEDLY GOT TIES TO THE MAFIA.
NOTHING, OKAY? JUST ANOTHER FIGHT. NO BIGGIE.
WHAT SORT OF TROUBLE DID YOU GET YOURSELF INTO THIS TIME, HUH?
SHUT YOUR PIE HOLE, BRAT I'M HERE FOR DINNER.
And to help too, apparently
WHAT IN GOO'S NAME ARE YOU DOING HERE, HUH?
Who the hell let you in?
Don't you have anything better to do with your sorry excuse for a life?
YEP. THEY'RE FAMOUS OVER AT THE PRECINCT TOO. YOU BETTER WATCH YOURSELF, BIKKY
OHH, I REMEMBER THAT FROM TV. THAT WAS HIS GANG?!
THEY BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF A COP JUST BECAUSE THEY DION'T LIKE THE WAY HE LOOKED.
BUT HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW MUCH MORE THAN THAT.
I THINK THEY SAID HE WAS BRUCE.
From Lloyd Hirn
BRUCE, EH? YEAH, I'VE HEARD OF HIM SENT ONE OF OUR BOYS IN BLUE TO THE HOSPITAL NOT TOO LONG AGO
WHAT?!
REALLY? THEY DIDN'T SEEM SO TOUGH WHEN I WAS KICKING THEIR FACES IN. ONE OF HIS LACKEYS, I guess.
WHAT?! WHY?! THAT'S SO SCARY.
Geez maybe a rat.
YEAH, LIKE YOU SHOWING UP IS GOING TO STRIKE FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF ANYTHING.
BUT LOOK, IF SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN, JUST GIVE ME A CALL, OKAY?
HOLY CRAP! SHEESH
You're like a trouble magnet
ROGER THAT.
Buenos
COME ON, DUDE I MEAN IT. DON'T DO THAT TO RYO.

SHEESH, WHERE'S CAROL?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

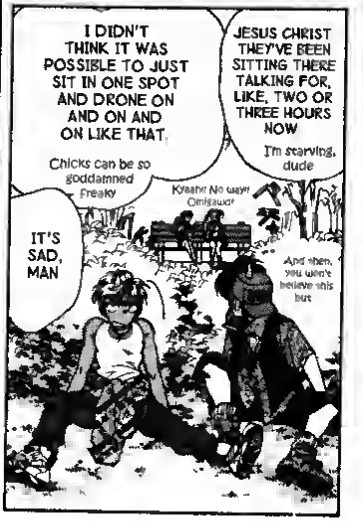
AT THE SAME TIME.
YOU TALKING ABOUT THAT BLOND, SHRIMPY OREO?
HEY, LAI. DO YOU THINK THOSE TWO WILL BE ALL RIGHT?
YOU TALKING ABOUT THAT CHINK MONKEE?
HEY, DO YOU THINK LAI AND LASS MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE TOO?
AND HE KICKED MAJOR BUTT TOO. THAT'S SO DREAMY.
GIT.
AND YOU NEED GLASSES.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A BLACK PERSON WITH BLOND HAIR BEFORE. HE WAS REALLY, REALLY CUTE.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW. I THINK ASIAN BOYS HAVE GOT IT GOIN' ON.
MAYBE. IF YOU'RE INTO MONKEYS.
AWW, COME ON. ADMIT IT. HE WAS KINDA CUTE.
HOW DARE THAT LITTLE AMERICAN SHRIMP MOVE AROUND WITH MORE FINESSE ON A 8-BALL COURT THAN ME. I'M ASIAN, FOR GOD'S SAKE!!! THAT FRIGGIN' PUNK EVEN SAID I'VE GOT SHORT LEGS!?
And he is too.
AND ONE MORE THING. 'HOW DARE THAT CHINESE MONKEY BE TALLER THAN ME, GOD DAMN IT? GETTING CALLED A SHRIMP BY AN ASIAN, NO LESS. DAMN! THAT IRKS ME BIG TIME.
But he's worried.
AHHH!! PISS ME OFF!!



Bourgeoisie Peasant

I DON'T KNOW BETTER ZIP YOUR MOUTH, THOUGH
WHY IS MONEY FALLING FROM THE SKY?
Does this mean someone up there really, really likes me?
Zips

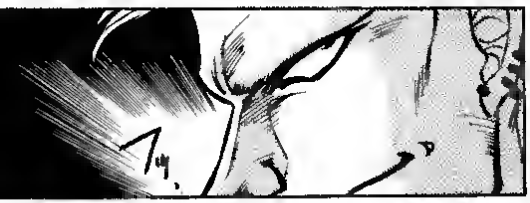
RIGHT BACK ATCHA, BY-OTCH.
IT'S SO WRONG.
EVEN WORSE, HOW THE HELL DID I WIND UP SITTING HERE STARING AT NOTHING BUT YOU INSTEAD OF LASS, HUH?


I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE TO JUST SIT IN ONE SPOT AND DRONE ON AND ON AND ON LIKE THAT.
JESUS CHRIST THEY'VE BEEN SITTING THERE TALKING FOR, LIKE, TWO OR THREE HOURS NOW
I'm starving, dude
Chicks can be so goddamned freaky
Kyaahh! Ah saiyo! Omigaaw!
IT'S SAD, MAN
And then, you won't believe this but

BRUCE!!

REMEMBER THOSE TWO FROM YESTERDAY? THE BLACK KID WITH BLOND HAIR AND THE CHINESE KID? THEY JUST RAN OFF WITH IT.
WHAT?!
WHERE'S THE MONEY?!

Where'd you guys go?



HII!!

WAAHH!!

OOPH!

LET'S GO!!

SHIT, DAMMIT! WAIT!!

WE GOTTA BRING THE MONEY BACK TO THEM.
IT SAYS IF WE WANT TO GET THE GIRLS BACK,
THAT'S CAROL'S SHIRT!!

BIKKY!!

WAIT A SEC.
LET'S GO THEN!!

GARR GGHH!!

BEFORE WE HEAD OUT. BETTER LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR SUPER-MAN.

KYAAHH!!
URGGH.

?!

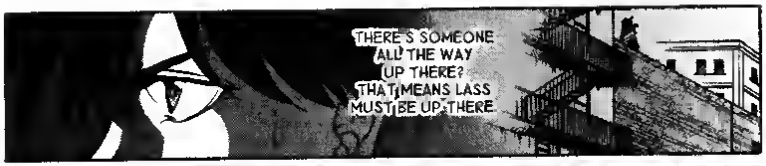
YEP. AND THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO TURN IT IN TO THE POLICE.
OKAY, SO WE'RE WE IN AGREEMENT THIS IS BAD, BAD MONEY?

HEY! DUDE! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
Sheesh
OKAY, BUT NOT BEFORE I GET A SMALL CUT THANK YOU, GOD.

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN WITH THAT, DUDE.
Just to remind... I called in... so if you get caught...
Trust me. I know...
DON'T WORRY, MAN. THEY WON'T NOTICE A FEW BUCKS MISSING HERE AND THERE. THERE'S A TON OF INCOMPETENT COPS IN THIS DISTRICT.

I WONDER WHERE IN THE HELL THEY WENT?
HEY!! THEY'RE GONE.

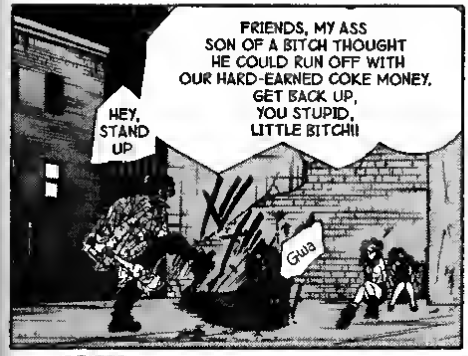
BUT, WHATEVER. WE NEED TO GO PICK UP LASS AND CAROL BEFORE WE HEAD OVER TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.


THERE'S SOMEONE ALL THE WAY UP THERE? THAT MEANS LASS MUST BE UP THERE.

?!
Move it, bro.

THINK AGAIN. WE'VE STILL GOT YOUR GIRL.
NOW, WHERE'S YOUR LITTLE FRIEND? AND IF YOU'RE THINKING OF AMBUSHING US,
ガラ

WHAT'S UP, MY BROTHA?


HEY, STAND UP.
FRIENDS, MY ASS SON OF A BITCH THOUGHT HE COULD RUN OFF WITH OUR HARD-EARNED COKE MONEY. GET BACK UP, YOU STUPID, LITTLE BITCH!!
Gua

I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE FRIENDS. HOW COULD YOU DO THAT TO HIM?!

HERE I AM. JUST LIKE YOU REQUESTED!

COKE MONEY? OH MY GOD. YOU DO HAVE CONNECTIONS TO THE MAFIA AFTER ALL.

KAY.
BRING OUT ONE OF THE GIRLS.

YO!

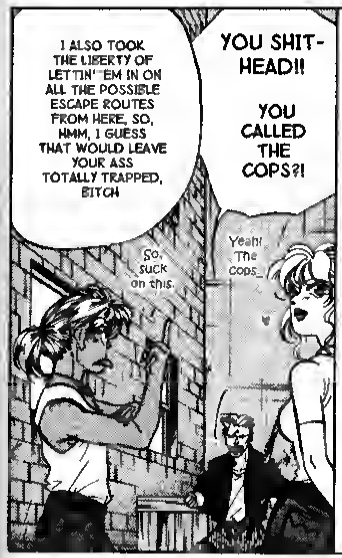
LASS!!
NO!!

LASS!!

WHAT THE?!

NICE TRY, BUT DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID AGAIN!! OR ELSE I'LL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF THROWING THIS BITCH OFF THE BUILDING!!
SOON

Huh?

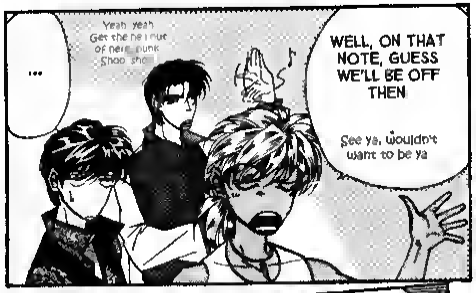

I ALSO TOOK THE LIBERTY OF LETTIN' 'EM IN ON ALL THE POSSIBLE ESCAPE ROUTES FROM HERE, SO, HMM, I GUESS THAT WOULD LEAVE YOUR ASS TOTALLY TRAPPED, BITCH
So, suck on this.

YOU SHIT-HEAD!!
YOU CALLED THE COPS?!
Yeah! The cops

smile

GAME OVER, BRUCE GAME OVER.
Though I must admit it really wasn't that fair ta ya

THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR HELP, BOYS.
HERE YOU GO.


...
Yeah, yeah Get the hell out of here, punk. Shoo, shoo!
WELL, ON THAT NOTE, GUESS WE'LL BE OFF THEN
See ya, wouldn't want to be ya

OO OHH !!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, HUH?

AHH, SHUT UP. WHERE'S THE MONEY?
CRAPTACULAR TIMING AS ALWAYS, EH, DEE?
HE'S GOT IT.

OHH, URM, YEAH. SORRY.
AWW, COME ON IT WASN'T THAT BAD. OON'T GO GETTING OEPRESSED ON ME ALL OF A SUDDEN.
...
I GET IT. THAT SUCKS. IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD FOR YOU, YOU KNOW?
HEY, I'M, LIKE, MAJORLY STARVED. SO, WHAT ABOUT IT? YOU WANNA GO GRAB A BITE AROUND HERE OR SOMETHING, LAI?
I THINK YOUR DIRECTIONS WERE TO GO "STRAIGHT HOME."
HEH.

SHEESH, YOU REALLY NEED TO LEARN TO CONTROL THAT NASTY PILFERING HABIT OF YOURS. NOW, YOU MAY GO.
Yes, it is fair and no, it's not your money
OOO HHHH !!
Awww, come on That's my money
Reclaimation
RYO!
RIGHT, KEEP THE ACT UP, YOU LITTLE THIEF
WHAT ARE YOU OOING, RYO?! KYAAHH!! THAT'S NAUGHTY?!!
AND DON'T LET ME CATCH YOU LOITERING ANYWHERE GO STRAIGHT HOME, YOU HEAR?
Fusion Scrooge McDuck
THE GOOD ONE'S KINDA LIKE MY MOM/DAD, I DON'T HAVE PARENTS, SO HE TOOK ME IN A WHILE BACK.
HOW EXACTLY DID YOU END UP BUDDY BUDDY WITH ALL THOSE COPS BACK THERE?
SHUDDAP, WE ACCIDENTALLY RAN INTO A GOOD ONE!
ANO WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT THE COPS AROUNO HERE BEING INCOMPETENT?
Ka ka, ka

After Talk in FAKE III

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PURCHASING FAKE III.

Hi guys, this is Sanami again. "Fake" is finally on its third volume, and to be honest, I'm totally like "it's about time" about it. I've still got a long ways to go, though, so I hope you guys continue to support me to the end. Now, we've made it from Act 1-10 in the book, and for those who are a bit confused, Act 4, 7 and 10 are more like side stories staring Bikky. Also, as they are side stories, Bikky and Carol's ages have been fluctuating a bit as well (In act 2, Bikky was 13 and Carol was 16, then in act 10, Bikky was 24 and Carol 27). I've been trying to plan it so for each comic I put out, there's at least one of these Bikky led side stories included, so for all of you really confused people out there, I'm really, really sorry!! But I plan on keeping things like this, so please support me in that too.

NOW FOR AN EXTRA SIDE NOTE...

There are a lot of "untruths" in my manga. And yes, I know that manga are usually fictional pieces of work to begin with, but in my case, there are a lot of times where I don't have all the reference material readily available, which is why you might see NYPD officers walking around in LAPD uniforms or driving in LAPD cars but at the same time, stuff like the divisions or departments are somewhat accurate—but not completely. (I'm really sorry guys!! I really tried. The divisions and departments in the US vary from state to state, even precinct to precinct, so...) At least, that's my excuse. Ha, ha, ha, ha. And yes, there are times when to further the story, I sorta embellish things as well, but for the most part, I just want you guys to know that I'm a big idiot who really doesn't know that much about anything so... sorry guys!!

I promise I'll work on becoming a know-it-all!!

NEXT PAGE.

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT? YOU GUYS MUST HAVE BEEN ALL CONFUSED FROM WHAT WAS GOING ON AROUND US
ALMOST LIKE A FEATHER FALLING OR SOMETHING
OH, YEAH NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT'S WHAT IT SEEMED LIKE TO ME TOO
YEAH, LIKE SHE SAID. NOW COME ON, LET'S GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT BEFORE ALL THE SHOPS CLOSE
BUT I SAW WHAT I SAW!!!
BOY, AM I HUNGRY. WHERE SHOULD WE GO, HMM?

ALL RIGHT, 'FESS UP. WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE? I COULD HAVE SWORN THAT AFTER YOU CAUGHT HER IN MIDAIR YOU TWO "FLOATED" BACK DOWN. I KNOW SOMETHING'S UP,
so can the excuses.

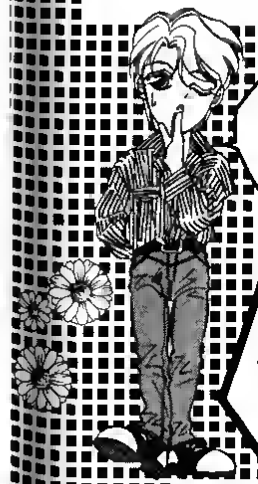
-FAKE-

VOLUME FOUR

When reports flood the 27th Precinct with news of an explosion and bomb scare in their neighborhood, Dee and Ryo find themselves on call to defuse the deadly situation. Tension runs even higher when the two New York City cops discover the targeted site is none other than Bikky's school! Will the mounting threat sideline Dee's seduction of his pouty partner?! Find out in this action-packed volume, which also has two original, for comic only, FAKE episodes!!!

TALKING ABOUT THE MAKING OF THE OVA. (AS IF SOMEONE CARES.)

Some of you may already know this from the ads and other promos, but yes, a "FAKE" OVA series is in the works. This definitely could not have happened without all of your support out there, so once again, thank you so, so, so much. Talks about the video have been going on for a while now, and rather smoothly I might add. Storywise, we'll be using one of the Acts from the original manga, but since the length was set at a longer-than-usual 60 minutes, I've also had the opportunity to add in a few brand-new things to the script which I couldn't before because of page restrictions. Also, we are working hard to make sure the video can be enjoyed by a "FAKE" veteran or newbie. By the way, if you reserve your copy early, I believe an original calendar illustrated by yours truly will also be thrown in as part of the package. Urrgh. I'll do my best drawing it. And quick like. (I'm like, really slow when it comes to drawing. Like, on par with drippy molasses, as in, really, really slow, drippy molasses.) For more information about reserving your copy, please check the Be x Boy serials for ads and such.



Sorry & Please.

By the way, here is a list of the cast for the OVA. Since they did such a great job on the CD, we're decided to stay with the very same CD crew.

CAST:

Ryo:	Nobuo Hida	Dee:	Tomokazu Seki
Bikky:	Rika Matsumoto	Carol:	Wakana Yamazaki
JJ:	Tetsuya Iwanaga	Berkeley:	Masashi Ehara
Cap:	Yousuke Akimoto		

Hope you like it because I'm rather excited about it myself!!

And I'm really sorry for making you spend your hard-earned money on the comics and now on the video. But it really makes me happy you continue to support me like this!! Thank you again!!

Top Secret (but not really) Info.

FAKE 4" will be out kinda early. Right now, it's slated for 2003 (sometime within there)! I'm sure!! So save that money up!! Pleaasssssssseeeeeeeee!!